

TRENDS

Association of
Schools of
Allied Health
Professions

HIGHLIGHTS

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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.

ACCREDITATION RESOURCE CREATED

The Association is making available a set of accreditation templates on the ASAHP website as a means of aiding in the navigation of several different accreditation organizations. Unlike most other health professions, allied health is characterized by a multiplicity of accrediting agencies. A considerable amount of time, effort, and money is involved in meeting the requirements of these various groups. Moreover, at institutions with many kinds of academic offerings, it is challenging to remember the processes and procedures of each agency.

Typically, schools with allied health programs add to their inventory by creating new programs over time. The learning curve can be steep during the early days of discovering exactly what is expected by accrediting organizations that are new to a school. The templates were designed to remove the bulk of the mystery associated with any venture into these new domains. In addition, this handy resource involves the consolidation of this information in a single location.

The templates provide a guide to the major steps in accreditation from the time that officials at an institution decide to start a new program until it is well established. An example of some common elements that cut across the various agencies are as follows:

- ◆ Hire a program director.
- ◆ Develop a curriculum.
- ◆ Hire appropriate faculty members.
- ◆ Identify and develop clinical education sites.
- ◆ Admit the first class of students.
- ◆ Submit an application for developing program status.
- ◆ The amount of the application fee.
- ◆ Write a self study report.
- ◆ Onsite visits following applicant status requests.
- ◆ Length of initial accreditation.
- ◆ Follow-up provisional site visits.
- ◆ Length of initial accreditation.
- ◆ Length of continued accreditation.
- ◆ Annual program fees.
- ◆ Annual institutional fees.
- ◆ Periodicity of reports to submit.

This achievement is the result of the excellent efforts of ASAHP Board member **Gregory H. Frazer** (Dean, Duquesne University) and former ASAHP Secretary **Christopher E. Bork** (Dean, Medical University of Ohio), both of whom did the bulk of the work with the assistance of other members.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By David M. Gibson, ASAHP President



As was the custom in ancient Greece, the elders of the city would sit near the gate of the city and greet strangers as they entered the portals of their new destinations. On one occasion, a young man was traveling from Thebes to Athens. When he was about to enter the gates of the city, the old man asked him whence he had come. In response, the young man replied, "Thebes." Again the elder queried, "And how did you like Thebes? The young man was ebullient in his praise of the people, the customs and the city's remarkable trades and arts. The elder said to him, "Welcome to Athens for you will surely find that the Athenians are most friendly, very creative but on a larger scale than in Thebes!"

The next day, another young man came to the portals of the city of Athens. The same elder was seated at the entrance to the gate. He made the same inquiries of this young man as he had to the first. The young man replied that he had just arrived from Thebes where he insisted, "the people are rude, lack any creativity, the city is over-crowded and he was happy to be gone from there. In reply, the elder said, "I fear that you will find the same conditions here but on a much larger scale."

As we prepare for a new year, it would be well for us to look back on this past year and assess what together we have accomplished. If on the one hand, we have found satisfaction and a measurement of joy in our work and in our accomplishments, then welcome to a new year. You will find it better than the past year's successes and you will find it to be replete with new and exciting challenges. If, on the other hand, the past year has been dull and uninviting with little to say we have accomplished together, then I fear you will be disappointed in the next year. I think, however, that most of the membership has found great satisfaction in participating in our Association's many activities.

I feel somewhat like the first young man that entered Athens: excited and hopeful as to where we shall go next year. Certainly, there are challenges to our member schools and to higher education in general. Together we can take them on.

First, we are facing frightening shortages of key allied health professionals such that long delays in diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments are being experienced in various parts of the country. Second, with the AAMC's recent recommendation that schools of medicine should increase their class sizes by thirty percent will strain our clinical education sites for allied health students, particularly those who may be viewed as medical students' competitors. Third, the general decline in state appropriations for higher education and the relative expense of allied health education combine to make both a threat and a challenge to allied health deans and faculty. The fourth challenge is the waning federal resources allocated for health professions education and the very real possibility that Title VII, Section 755 may be forfeited because of our mounting national debt.

Certainly, under the leadership of David Gale, immediate past-president, we have set in place some innovative strategies that may help us address these challenges. Our scholar in residence and newly approved leadership programs can take on the tasks of addressing some of these major issues and provide the Association with membership approved position papers.

Welcome to Athens and Happy Holidays to all. Dave

APPROPRIATIONS OUTLOOK GRIM



The year 2005 may be the one that will be long remembered for the dismantling of federal support for a great many health professions education programs. A conference committee of House and Senate members agreed to gigantic spending cuts in every program under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, including the elimination of some programs.

Funding for the Section 755 Allied Health Grants Program (which includes clinical psychology, chiropractic, and podiatric medicine) would be reduced by 66%, going from a level of \$11,754,000 to \$4,000,000. Area Health Education Centers would be cut by 93.1% and the Health Careers Opportunity Program would see its funding decline by 88.8%. As bad as these reductions are, they are a little bit more promising than the following programs that would be eliminated completely: Health Education Training Centers, Geriatric Training, Rural Training, Workforce Information & Analysis, and Health Administration.

The only good piece of good news at this juncture is that the House voted down the spending bill (H.R. 3010) on November 17 by a vote of 209-224. Unlike their House counterparts in the GOP, all Democrats on the conference committee refused to sign the bill. Of the 224 House Members voting against the conference report, 202 Democrats were joined by 22 Republicans, most of the latter coming from the more moderate wing of that party. Another saving grace is that the bill did not include any targeted earmarks, a term usually associated with pork barrel spending. The rest of the picture is unclear. A bill for Labor-HHS programs might not be passed at all for FY 2006. Instead, one or more continuing resolutions (CRs) would enable funding to occur for the rest of the year at either the previous year's level or perhaps much lower. Another possibility is to roll Labor-HHS into omnibus legislation, a common practice in recent years.

2006– 2007 ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16-17, 2006—Spring Meeting—Washington Court Hotel— Washington, DC

October 18-21, 2006 - Annual Conference— Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel— Chicago, IL.

October 19, 2006- Scholarship for Excellence winners announced.

October 17-20, 2007—Annual Conference—Catamaran Resort Hotel —San Diego, CA

(Preliminary planning is underway to offer a Leadership Development Program in 2006. Dates will be announced once plans have been finalized. The intent is to begin with a two-day program for a maximum of 15 participants in March 2006.)

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Association's *Strategic Plan* has been revised. The purpose was to identify more specific action steps to achieve the various objectives pertaining to each goal. In addition, more precise measures have been developed to assess the implementation of the action steps. The *Plan* is on the ASAHP website for a period of 30-days to invite member review and comment. The deadline for responding is **December 15, 2005**. Following any modifications that need to be made, members also will be asked to prioritize the goals.

SCENES FROM THE 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Gordon Green (Dean at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas), Chairperson of the 2005 ASAHP Annual Conference Planning Committee, at the Opening Plenary Session



(L-R) President-Elect David Gibson, Past Presidents John Trufant and Stephen Wilson, and ASAHP President David Gale at the Fellows Luncheon

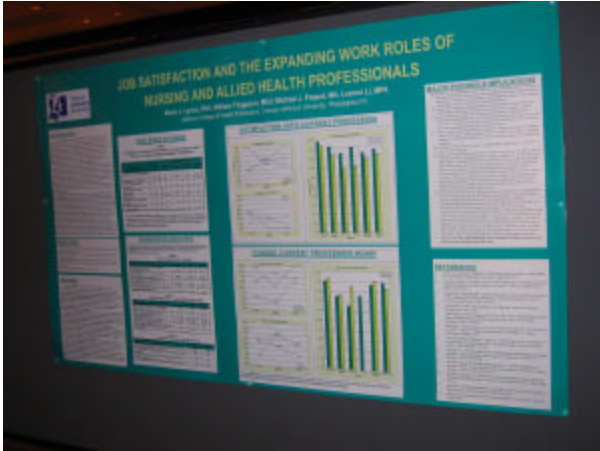


(L-R) ASAHP Board Member Hugh Bonner, NAACLS Executive Director Olive Kimball, and President David Gale at The George Ranch outside Houston, TX



2005 ASAHP Class of Fellows (L-R): Board Member Hugh Bonner, Mary Haven, Secretary-Elect Susan Hanrahan, Cecil Drain, and Edward "Ted" Kelley

SCENES FROM THE 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



One of the Many Excellent Posters on Display During the Poster Session/Reception



Richard Oliver (L) Receives the ASAHP Distinguished Service and Achievement Award from President David Gale (R)



P. Kevin Rudeen (L) Receives the ASAHP Outstanding Member Board Award from President David Gale (R)



Gordon Green (L) Receives the ASAHP President's Award from President David Gale (R) in the Form of a Certificate Depicting an Official ASAHP Rocking Chair That Was Sent to His Office in Dallas.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY RECORD SET

The Association's 2005 Institutional Profile Survey resulted in a new record with data being submitted from 95 member institutions. The previous record, which was tied last year, was 90. This achievement is primarily the result of the dedicated efforts of Dean **Ronald H. Winters** (College of Health Related Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences). In addition to agreeing to extend the deadline for data collection for another two weeks, he contacted several deans with a request to participate. Had he not done these two things, the overall number of participating institutions would have been considerably lower than last year's figure.

A recent addition to the survey is a benchmarking component on scholarship and research that is optional. Users will be able to compare their respective institutions to a group of similar institutions, which they themselves will select. The benchmarking piece was developed by asking deans and directors to indicate the Carnegie classification of their school and to identify their respective ASAHP member peer institutions. The process made it possible to create various peer groups, but only the dean or director who designated the group knows which institutions are designated in that person's peer group. Although the regular survey data collection period is closed for 2005, the benchmarking supplement remains open. Deans and directors are encouraged to take advantage of it.

The aim is to report the findings of the regular survey by the end of January, 2006. The information will be disseminated in two ways. The complete results will be available in electronic format. By March, it is expected that a printed version that contains all the major findings also will be available for distribution. The data for this year's iteration are enriched by the increased number of institutions in the survey. The section on salary levels continues to be one of the more sought after kinds of information emanating from this annual study.

GLOBAL REPORT ON AGING

The AARP has produced a *Global Report on Aging*, which addresses a variety of topics, including the following that may be accessed on the World Wide Web:

Looking Abroad to Meet the Demands for Caregivers

http://www.aarp.org/research/international/gra/gra_fall_2005/index.html

The Challenge of Delivering First Rate Care

http://www.aarp.org/research/international/gra/gra_fall_2005/from_the_ceo.html

Crossing Borders or Staying in Place? The Long-term Care Workforce Debate

http://www.aarp.org/research/international/gra/gra_fall_2005/from_the_editor.html

Can the Developed Countries' Demand for Caregivers Outstrip the Supply?

http://www.aarp.org/research/international/gra/gra_fall_2005/policy_forum.html

East to West: The Migration of Informal Caregivers

http://www.aarp.org/research/international/gra/gra_fall_2005/policy_forum.html#east

Global Focus on Long-term Care Workforce

AVAILABLE RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONICALLY

Education Statistics Quarterly

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has released the latest issue of the *Education Statistics Quarterly*. It includes (1) "College Persistence on the Rise? Changes in 5-Year Degree Completion and Postsecondary Persistence Rates Between 1994 and 2000." This item draws from two longitudinal surveys of beginning postsecondary students to examine whether students who enrolled in postsecondary education in the beginning of the 1990s were more or less likely than those who enrolled in the mid-1990s to complete postsecondary education. (2) "Staff in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2002, and Salaries of Full-Time Instructional Faculty, 2002–03" presents findings from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System winter 2002–03 data collection, which included both primary occupational activity information for staff employed in fall 2002 and salaries and fringe benefits of full-time instructional faculty for academic year 2002–03. These documents may be accessed on the Web at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/quarterly/vol_6/6_4/5_1.asp and at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/quarterly/vol_6/6_4/5_2.asp, respectively.

GAO Report On Therapy Caps

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report entitled, "Little Progress Made in Targeting Outpatient Therapy Payments to Beneficiaries' Needs," recommending Congress give the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) interim authority to allow, only under certain conditions, payments exceeding the caps after the moratorium expires. GAO also recommended that HHS develop a means to access beneficiary therapy needs and improve its system of identifying improper therapy claims. The report was critical of the lack of standardization and collection of data on the health and function of patients receiving outpatient therapy services. The report is on the Web at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0659.pdf>.

Degree Mills And Accreditation Mills

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) announced a major new addition to its CHEA Website: *Degree Mills and Accreditation Mills*. Five major sections of the Website provide links to information about: (1) Institutions and programs accredited by recognized U.S. accrediting organizations, (2) How accreditation operates and how to look for organizations that may be accreditation mills, (3) How degree mills operate and other pertinent information, (4) State-by-state information on institutions and programs authorized to operate in the respective states, and (5) International directories of higher education institutions. This information is aimed at helping students, families, employers, and the public determine whether or not an institution is a legitimate degree provider. The site is on the Web at <http://www.chea.org/degreemills/default.htm>.

Can Outsourcing Solve The Higher Education Cost Dilemma?

The report, "Is Outsourcing Part of the Solution to the Higher Education Cost Dilemma?" was produced by the Institute for Higher Education Policy. The authors found outsourcing already in place and successful in American colleges and universities for functions such as bookstores and food services, but according to the report, colleges and universities have one major management concern about outsourcing that is not typically an issue for other organizations. That concern is about the potential loss of identity, community, and collegiality associated with many university services and programs. The paper notes that few universities have an outsourcing vision or strategy, but suggests that the extent to which outsourcing can and will be used is a question that will influence ongoing debates about controlling college costs. The report is on the Web at <http://www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/outsourcing.pdf>.

PROFILE OF NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER



One of the Association's newest members is The College of Health Professions at Texas State University-San Marcos, one of seven academic colleges on campus. The dean of the College is **Ruth B. Welborn** who holds the rank of Professor of Health Administration. She received a Diploma in Nursing from Jewish Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis, Missouri, a BSN from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, a Master's from UT-San Antonio, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M at College Station. At Texas State, she has served in a variety of leadership positions including Chairperson of the Departments of Allied Health Science and Health Administration, Associate Dean of the College of Health Professions, and Interim Dean. Her current grant activities include funding by the National Science Foundation, the W.K.Kellogg Foundation and the Houston Endowment, Inc.

The College boasts a unique combination of health professional programs ranging from direct patient care to administration of health and social services. At the undergraduate level, programs of study include: clinical laboratory science, communication disorders, health administration, health information management, radiation therapy, respiratory care, and social work. At the graduate level of study, programs include: communication disorders, health administration, healthcare human resources, health research, physical therapy, and social work. The College offers certificate programs at the graduate level in biostatistics, epidemiology, health administration, health informatics, and long-term care administration. The College has 62 FTE faculty in nine academic units.

The University's fall 2005 student enrollment was reported as 27,129 and the College of Health Professions reported 1,541 students. The campus is about halfway between Austin and San Antonio and is located on the banks of the San Marcos River, which provides recreational and leisure activities for students throughout the year.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ASSESSMENT

Following the recent Annual Conference in Houston, attendees were sent an evaluation form electronically. The responses will prove to be highly useful to the planning committee that will make arrangements for the 2006 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. Shown in parentheses are the percentages of respondents who were either highly satisfied or satisfied with the following aspects of the recent meeting: concurrent sessions (90%), the number of occasions when concurrent sessions are offered (91%), the poster session (91%), and the amount of time set aside for networking (91%). Based on these figures, it appears that the Association has arrived at a favorable mixture of events and they should be offered in similar ways and amounts of time next year.

Assuming that a research workshop will be on next year's program, respondents were asked to recommend topics to be addressed. Their suggestions will be forwarded to the Research Committee. Similar questions were posed regarding the following programmatic aspects of the next conference: What kinds of topics should serve as a basis for a Call for Abstracts? Whom would you recommend be the Keynote Speaker? Whom would you recommend give the Switzer Lecture? What kinds of groups should be contacted to furnish exhibits?

Deans from institutions in Illinois have been invited to serve on the 2006 conference planning committee. They will begin to have a series of conference calls in January.