

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Last month, I completed my first year as chair of the Department of Health Management and Informatics at the University of Missouri School of Medicine (HMI). In a remarkable year with many accomplishments for HMI, I would like to highlight a few.

We have assessed, together with faculty and stakeholders, the strategic opportunities and ways to enhance HMI teaching, research, and service to the Missouri community and elsewhere. Our strategic planning process has been re-initiated to coincide with the School of Medicine's strategic planning process. We are now ready to involve additional stakeholders like the HMI Alumni Organization in this critical process to strengthen the HMI mission and shape its future.

We have made an integral part of the HMI mission the support of the University of Missouri Health System's and the School of Medicine's mission to improve the health of Missourians while being a leader in the health care field. To this end, HMI has been involved in research on the efficiency of delivering health care, improvements in quality of health care through health informatics, and quality improvement projects that involve our students. We have also contributed to critical discussions on big picture policy issues affecting the MU Health System and Missouri.

We have learned about many grant opportunities for advancing the field of health management and informatics. We matched one of these opportunities with HMI interests and expertise to successfully compete for the largest research grant in the history of the University of Missouri School of Medicine at \$13.4 million. This grant application was led by Dr. Jerry Parker, Associate Dean for Research of the School of Medicine, in collaboration with a team of co-investigators from the School of Medicine and the Sinclair School of Nursing, including two faculty members from HMI. We have succeeded in other applications as well.

I would like to make a special mention of our students' involvement with the HMI teaching mission. In 2012, HMI students approached the department leadership to suggest improvements in the teaching of health management and informatics. HMI leadership then asked students to organize these suggestions, which they did in a very positive way, for HMI education programs. We then created the Education and Student Services Quality Improvement Group, comprised of students and faculty, to discuss and implement the improvement recommendations.

Finally, I would like to highlight the effectiveness of our educational programs in preparing the future generation of health managers and health informaticians in Missouri. We graduated 38 MHA (17 executive and 21 residential), 14 MHI (8 executive and 6 residential) and granted 17 Health Informatics certificates (4 executive stand alone and 13 residential MHA students) in 2011. An estimated 100% of these HMI graduates from MHA and MHI programs were employed in the health care field approximately three months after graduating.

I am looking forward to working with HMI students, alumni, and all other stakeholders to make 2012-2013 an even more remarkable year for the HMI community.

Eduardo J. Simoes, MD, MSc, DLSHTM, MPH
Chairman and Health Management Informatics
Alumni Distinguished Professor



CLASS OF 2014 FALL ORIENTATION

Kevin Bogert, HMIGSA President, interviews former Health Management and Informatics Department Administrator, Shari Riley, JD, MHA

Shari has recently taken a position as Corporate Compliance Officer for Reliant Care Management Company, LLC. She served as Department Administrator for three years and was employed with the University for the last twelve years. We wish Shari the very best in her new position.

Tell me about your educational background and the degrees you have received

Undergrad Moberly Area Community College, Associate of Arts (AA), University of Missouri –Columbia, Bachelor of Science (BS) Management

Postgrad University of Missouri - Columbia, School of Law Juris Doctor (JD), European Union Certificate
University of Missouri - Columbia, School of Medicine, Executive Master of Health Administration

Tell me about your Career Interests Originally being from a rural community, Shari is very interested in rural health. In particular, Shari is interested in the promotion of services, education of the community, the direction and implementation of projects, and consultations for members of rural communities. Shari has dedicated her time to becoming an expert on rural communities and the challenges they face.

Shari is also very interested in corporate compliance. Shari recently accepted a job as the Corporate Compliance Officer for Reliant Care Management Company LLC in St. Louis MO. Shari is responsible for leading the Corporate Compliance Program with the goals of maintaining and revising policies and procedures to prevent illegal or unethical activity, respond to all violations of rules, regulations, and policies, train and maintain effective compliance communication, and monitor and coordinate compliance activities throughout all departments.

Largest Career Accomplishment in the Past Shari's most rewarding experience was her involvement with the Food Bank ,serving for five years as a member of the board of directors and five years associate director. These experiences enabled Shari to understand the basic needs and the importance of food and wellness in rural communities. The food bank serves 32 counties and over 150 organizations.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in healthcare? Rural health—grew up in a rural community. Due to growing up in a rural community, Shari really appreciates the “Mom and Pop” local physicians and their commitments to rural health. Without these crucial providers, many rural communities would not have access to health services. Shari wants to give back to these communities the same way the clinical health providers in rural communities do.

Tell me about your Hobbies Shari has a passion for everything outdoors. She loves hiking, climbing (recently climbed Pike's Peak), snow skiing, and being at the lake.

Tell me about your biggest accomplish in your life Being blessed to have a 21 year old daughter and twins (a five year old girl and boy). Balancing raising her three beautiful children with her healthcare career passions.

How long have you taught at the University of Missouri? Shari has taught in the University of Missouri's Health and Informatics department since 2004 teaching such classes as Healthcare Policy and Financial Management for Health Care Organizations. This is Shari's third year teaching Financial Management for Health Care Organizations. Shari has also taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor and guest lecturer for the department.

Please discuss your new position as the Membership Chair for the Alumni Board The responsibilities of the Membership Chair include promoting interest and involvement within and outside the department, ensuring that our alumni list is synced and matching with frequency, and encouraging membership through HMIGSA involvement and alumni interest.

A possible project that Shari mentioned would be to focus the Fall Institute around graduation years (ex: five, ten and fifteen years) with the goal of increased attendance.

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The HMI Department, along with the HMI Alumni Association, spotlights an alumnus in each quarterly newsletter. This is an opportunity for alumni and current students to see what former alumni are doing or have done with their careers.



Veronica Kramer, MHA
Coordinator of Student
Recruitment



Fall orientation for the residential program was held on August 16-17, 2012. The incoming class included 29 students in the Health Services Management graduate degree and four students seeking a degree in Health Informatics.

Two German students from the University of Bayreuth joined the class this fall-Sebastian Klesper and Peter Ullman. "It's always great to have the students from the University of Bayreuth join us. Their perspectives on the German system and observations about the US system make valuable contributions to the program." says Dr. Lanis Hicks.

The incoming class, as usual, is very diverse with a range of educational backgrounds and experience. The residential MHA class is becoming more competitive each year. This year we had a waiting list, with several students deciding to defer to Fall of 2014 in order to get a spot in our program. We have a growing number of students who are choosing to pursue a dual degree in HI. It is very exciting times in the Health Management and Informatics Department!

UPCOMING HMI EVENTS/NEWS

Matthew Kearney left HMI in April to become Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid for the University of Missouri. Veronica Kramer has accepted the position as Coordinator of Student Recruitment. Many of you already know Veronica from her previous role as ESA to Dr. Simoes. Veronica is a graduate of MU's MPA program.

You may contact Veronica at kramerv@health.missouri.edu or 573-864-0698.

Please be sure your contact information is up to date in the HMI Alumni Database, please visit:

[http://hmi.missouri.edu/
alumni_update_form.html](http://hmi.missouri.edu/alumni_update_form.html)

Be sure to look for our booth at the following annual events. If you plan on attending an event, please let us know and we will be sure to include you in any social gatherings we may have while attending.

AMIA

November 3-7, 2012

HIMSS

March 3-7, 2013

ACHE

March 11-14, 2013

March 12 Alumni Reception

Save the Date

for next year's
Fall Institute and
Homecoming weekend!

October 24-26, 2013

We are currently
accepting applications
for the Executive
Spring cohort. Please
share our program
with possible
candidates with whom
you may work or be
acquainted.

Executive Orientation

For Spring:
EHSM, January 3,
EHI, January 17, 2013



Kevin Bogert,
President HMIGSA



In Memory of Aditi Avhad

Dr. Aditi Avhad, a dentist in her native Mumbai, India, was pursuing her MHA when she was killed Aug. 2, 2012, in a bus accident en route from Chicago to Columbia.

Aditi was a stellar student who had earned a scholarship and was on track to complete her master's degree in 2013 with a 4.0 grade point average. This summer she was engaged in her internship with the Center for Health Care Quality at MU.

"Aditi Avhad was a wonderful student and colleague," said Douglas Wakefield, PhD, the center's director and a professor of health management and informatics. "Her work ethic, professionalism, intellect and people skills made her a tremendous contributor. The joy her sense of humor and smile brought to our team will be greatly missed."

The HMI Alumni Association invites alumni and friends to make a gift in her memory to the HMI Student Scholarship Fund. A website will be available shortly for friends and colleagues to donate online. If you would like to make a gift, contact Leah Freeze, Development Officer for the School of Medicine, (573) 884-7068 or via email at freezel@health.missouri.edu.

HMIGSA QUARTERLY REPORT

The Health Management and Informatics Graduate Student Association (<http://mizzou.orgsync.com/org/hmigsa>) is very excited about the beginning of another great year! This year the executive committee consists of Kevin Bogert (President), Andrew Cheney (Vice President), Kyle Hyduke (Treasurer), and newly elected Beth Cressman (Secretary). HMIGSA started the year off with a bang, hosting the annual "Student HMIGSA Welcome Picnic" for first and second year students. In less than a week's time, the Fall Institute will be upon us with a new event: a Wine Tour. The goal of the wine tour is to include alumni, students, and faculty in the weekend festivities who are not avid golfers. So far, there are over 52 confirmed golfers/wine tour participants, setting the stage for another great Fall Institute!

The future holds great opportunities for HMIGSA students with such professional events as the ACHE Congress and HIMSS Annual Conference and Exhibition, philanthropy, events such as building a house for Habitat for Humanity and volunteering at the Food Bank, and student bonding activities, such as a Christmas gathering and Thanksgiving dinner. On behalf of all the students and faculty at the University of Missouri Department of Health and Informatics, we wanted to give all the alumni a huge THANK YOU for your continued support of the program and the students; we would not have many of the opportunities available to us without your continued support!

We look forward to a great Fall Institute!
Kevin Bogert, President HMIGSA