



Alabama HIMSS 98-99

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Welcome from Alabama HIMSS President – Randy Hester

As the current President of Alabama HIMSS, I would like to extend a warm welcome and invite you to join in our professional activities. While we have several members who attend our seminars regularly, we also have a large number of first time attendees. We are very excited in the interest which continues to be shown in Alabama HIMSS. The seminars provide educational information as well as great networking opportunities with your peers. Attendees come from varied entities such as Provider Organizations, Vendors, Insurance Companies, and Academia.

Joining Alabama HIMSS

If you aren't a current member, I encourage you to join now. There are three types of Membership:

- Individual - \$35 / year – Provides Discount for Seminars
- Student - \$20 / Year – Provides Discount for Seminars
- Corporate – \$250 / Year - Allows Two Attendees from Sponsoring Corporation to Attend Seminars

A registration form is attached.

Goals

The leadership of Alabama HIMSS has set some ambitious goals for the coming year. In order to achieve these goals we need your continued and/or increased support. Below are our goals for the 1999-2000 year and ways you might help Alabama HIMSS prosper.

A) Conduct Two Quality Seminars Per Year -

One of HIMSS primary objectives is education. We strive to achieve this through our two seminars each year. These are typically held in Birmingham and consist of well-known speakers from all over the United States. We try to choose topics, which are very timely and have a wide appeal to our member constituency. Our speakers have included a wide variety of health care
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Fall 1999 Seminar Highlights

Summarized by Debbie Flint, PE

I had the pleasant opportunity to attend the Fall 1999 Alabama HIMSS Seminar on September 22nd at the Sheraton Perimeter Park South in Birmingham. It had been a while since I had last attended a HIMSS seminar, and I must admit I was very impressed with the line up of speakers. The HIMSS officers organized a very impressive group of presenters who traveled from Texas, Massachusetts, and Minnesota to present to our group! A few of the highlights I'd like to share with you are summarized below by speaker.

Del Richmond

IBM- Global Marketing Manager Healthcare Providers

In his presentation, "e-business: Impact on Healthcare," Mr. Del Richmond described the explosive growth of the internet as follows:

- Internet use is DOUBLING every 100 days
- 50 million homes have PCs
- Over 17 million people in the US looked up medical care data in 1998 (35% growth from 1997).

With this dramatic growth, Mr. Richmond stated that organizations can use this information in various ways and can view e-business as either an opportunity (new way to do business) or threat ("I don't know how to do"). This extensive growth in internet usage will also affect healthcare delivery resulting in new government regulations. Mr. Richmond stated that HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) will have a more significant impact on healthcare than Y2K. Total estimates for HIPAA are \$50 billion. Analysts say it (HIPAA) will cost at least as much as Y2K, and there will be a 2 year compliance period. Mr. Richmond also described HCFA's (Health Care Financing Administration) intent and summarized that organizations must have a plan in place as to how to deal with patient (customer) security and confidentiality. In addition, healthcare organizations should develop security programs on the basis of a risk analysis and the level of vulnerability an organization is willing to tolerate. The regulatory requirements must be addressed, but how that is done is up to your organization administratively and technically.

Rebecca Norris

McKesson HBOC

Ms. Rebecca Norris of McKesson HBOC presented "Data warehouses Development and Utilization." Ms. Norris began by describing some of the current challenges faced by management:

- To make informed responses to a changing environment
- To manage more efficiently
- To be able to compare measures of practice performance
- To be able to link patient case information, cost, and revenue data.

Data warehouses store many types of data including generic, business type data as well as healthcare specific data. One of the major goals of data warehouses is to create a decision support environment that integrates data stored in different places, organizes and delivers data to decision makers across an enterprise, and provides multiple applications.

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Alabama HIMSS 98-99
Officers (Continued)

Member at Large

Brenda Jarvis

Nursing Information Systems Coordinator, Decatur General
256/341-2948
fax 256/341-2685

Membership Information:

**Membership dues are for
July to June
Membership \$35.00
Student Membership
\$20.00
Corporate Membership
\$250.00**

***Don't
Forget to vote for
National HIMSS
Board of Directors
and Nominating
Committee
(ballots due Nov 15,
1999)***

Welcome -

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professionals including CIO's, Hospital Department Directors, Students, Vendors, Attorneys, and others. We also strongly encourage our HIMSS members to make presentations at our seminars. This is an easy way to gather points for Advancement in National HIMSS. Furthermore, we are always needing speaker recommendations for our seminars.

B) Alabama HIMSS Newsletter -

Publish Newsletter Twice a Year – Our goal is to increase the communication among the Alabama HIMSS community via the newsletter. Content for the newsletter can include articles or papers from HIMSS members, students, and others that have information to share. Other aspects of the newsletter include Member News, Job Opportunities, and information on past or future seminars.

Debbie Flint from UAB is serving as Chair of Publications and doing a great job. She did the vast majority of work for this newsletter. We greatly appreciate her efforts.

C) Develop Web Site-

We intend to publish an Alabama HIMSS Web Site within the next six months. National HIMSS is working on coordinating this effort and possibly providing the server space for all Chapter Websites. The website will be used to communicate Alabama HIMSS news including seminar dates and times, member happenings, job opportunities, etc.

Spring Seminar

We have an excellent seminar planned for the Spring of 2000. The primary focus will be the HIPAA Legislation and its impact. This seminar will be in Birmingham, probably around May. Exact details will be forthcoming.

Thanks again for your interest in Alabama HIMSS and I hope to hear from you soon. I may be reached at randyh@is.hhsys.org or 256-864-4510.

UAB Health Informatic Program Update

The last six months have been very productive for HI faculty. In addition to regular course teaching responsibilities, Drs. Berner, Hardin, and Orthner have had several publications, presentations, grants, and manuscript reviews.

It has been a productive six months for students as well. Several students attended the annual HIMSS conference and one of them, Andy Barber, was awarded the Dr. Harold E. Smalley Student Volunteer Award. The students, program faculty, and alumni who were there gathered for a delicious dinner in Atlanta at the HIMSS conference. Alumnus Gary Davis did a great job coordinating that activity!

Fifteen students were on internships across the country during the spring and summer. Among other sites where students took internships, Partners in Boston, Providence Health Systems in Portland, Catholic Healthcare West in California and Phoenix, and Vanderbilt University each provided internships for several students. We have also graduated our largest class to date. Sixteen students graduated in June and August. The HI Program has been enhanced by a new computer laboratory. It is up and running and we have a new Web server at <http://www.hi.uab.edu>, which includes a description (and a virtual tour!) of the laboratory. The HI Lab server will house faculty research activities and student web pages. Dr. Orthner has utilized the lab twice for the new HI 606 course: Managing Web-based Systems for Health Care, and Dr. Hardin has used the lab to demonstrate data mining software for a new course on data mining that he is teaching this summer. The lab will be especially useful for providing

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***Visit UAB HI's
website at
www.hi.uab.edu***

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Mailing
Address
oes
Here

In this Issue

Fall Seminar Highlights, President's Message, UAB Health Informatics Update

Alabama HIMSS Spring 2000 Seminar

HIPAA: How Will It Affect Your Organization

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was signed into law in 1996 as part of the Balanced Budget Act. The Alabama Chapter of HIMSS will be presenting a seminar on the HIPAA Legislation and Regulations in Birmingham during May 2000. Presentations will include perspectives from healthcare attorney's perspective, information security perspective, payer perspective and a panel discussion of your peers and what they are doing to prepare.

Brochures with further details and registration information will be mailed during March. Look for these in the mail. Please make plans to attend this seminar.

Job Opportunities

Programmer/Analyst:

The Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center, Mobile, Alabama, is seeking qualified applicants to fill an immediate opening in our Information Systems Department. Ideal candidates will be degreed professionals with programming experience on IBM mainframes using CICS and relational database technology. Resume with salary requirements should be sent to:

Eddy Stephens
 Director of Information Systems
 Mobile Infirmiry Medical Center
 P.O. Box 2144
 Mobile, Al 36609
 email : eddystephens@vhasecure.net

IT- Premera Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska

Extremely visible role, responsible for facilitating the IT component for Premera Blue Cross' managed-care vision. This is a critical capacity within the organization requiring continual interaction with the executive team. Appropriate candidates will be sophisticated, poised, articulate professionals, with significant director-level, IT experience. Strong preference for healthcare experience combined with knowledge of multiple project management methodologies.

For confidential consideration or more complete information contact:

Joseph R. Strain, Staffing
 Premera Blue Cross of Washington & Alaska
 Seattle, Washington
 Phone: (206) 624-7500 Fax (206) 622-1572
 Private E-Mail: JoeStrain@msn.com

Nursing Information Systems Coordinator

Full-time position, Decatur General Hospital. Individual must be an expert user of a variety of systems used in nursing administration and education: SMS/UNITY, ANSOS. Education data base: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. Maintain, design and build UNITY nursing applications. Must be flexible to function as clinical educator for general nursing education needs. RN-BSN; MSN preferred. Excellent benefit package. EOE.

Mail detailed resume to:

Decatur General Hospital
 Human Resources
 P.O. Box 2239
 Decatur, AL 35609-2239 or

e-mail: cdoss@net-master.net

Member News

Gary Davis, June '96 Grad of MSHI (Master of Science in Health Informatic) Program, is retiring from the Air Force on July 1, 2000. He will be moving on to a civilian career and plans to begin job hunting in October. He is currently Chief of IS Plans at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center, the largest AF medical facility. Currently, he is managing projects that include \$4.3M network infrastructure, migration of network to NT and new e-mail system -MS Exchange, and Y2K remediation for a \$16.5M IT systems inventory.

Eddy Stephens recently advanced to Senior Member in HIMSS. This honor is bestowed in recognition of service, professional participation, publications, and presentations. In two years, Eddy will be eligible to apply for advancement to Fellow. Congratulations, Eddy!!!

If you would like to learn more about HIMSS advancement, check out the HIMSS website at www.HIMSS.org.

Fall 1999 Seminar Highlights

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Examples of utilizing data warehouses for healthcare applications include the ability to link patient satisfaction to DRGs and outcomes. Examples of various uses of data integration may include:

- Financial Management may be able to determine whether or not to build another OR suite based on specialty,
- Physician Research to determine the effectiveness of therapies by comparing lab results from different drug therapies,
- Outcomes Research may compare clinical outcomes obtained from various pharmaceutical uses.

Brigham Serman

IBM

Mr. Brigham Serman, Manager of IBM Y2K Customer Services and Support for North America and Latin America, presented the "IBM Rollover Contingency Plans" to be enacted at the beginning of the new millennium. With less than 100 days until the new millennium, USA Today reported that the banking and finance industries are the most ready for the Y2K conversion, while the healthcare industry is lagging behind.

IBM's Y2K contingency plans were developed based on their Service Level Expectations. The key components of the service level expectations include:

- Year 2000 service and support request will be handled in the same manner as other requests.
- IBM's first priority must be to satisfy existing agreements.
- Customers without contractual agreements may encounter delays when requesting assistance.
- IBM will not correct date-related problems on not-ready products.

Mr. Serman presented the process flow that IBM will utilize when receiving and responding to various types of Y2K related incoming customer calls for general information, hardware support, software support, and other Y2K related customer inquiries. In order to make the transition into the new millennium as smooth as possible, some of the major plans that IBM has put into place include the following.

1. IBM has increased its call volume by 300%. In other words, the volume of incoming calls may increase up to 300% before a customer will be able to notice any change in service (response time, etc.).
2. In addition to standard phone lines, other points of entry into the customer service structure will include cell phones, email, and on-site client teams.
3. Three major call centers have been created to receive incoming customer calls. Location of these call centers have been strategically placed throughout North America in Atlanta, Dallas, and Toronto.
4. IBM staff will be working three full shifts, 24 hours/day during the rollover period (rollover period includes several days before and after New Year's Eve and Day).

For more information on IBM's Year 2000 Contingency Planning Guide, visit their website at: www.ibm.com/year2000.

UAB Health Informatic Program Update

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hands-on experience for several courses of the HI Program including HI 601 (data modeling and databases), HI 605 (networking and data communications), and HI 620 (Security, Audit, and Control of Health Information Systems). The HI program and course descriptions can be found on the main department web page: <http://www.hsa.uab.edu>.