Fellow MHA Students,

The MHA Student Association is off to a good start. Our first social event was a success with 19 people meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings downtown Indy. I know the time (9pm on a Thursday) was not easy for everyone to make so I really appreciate those of you who did! We had a smaller attendance for our first guest speaker, Donna Cameron of Health Evolutions Inc., but she gave a great talk about health care consulting and I think everyone in attendance benefited from her presentation.

I would like to say congratulations to Kristina Patterson and TaSheitha Butler for the excellent work at the National Association of Health Services Executives’ (NAHSE) annual Everett V. Fox Student Case Analysis and Presentation Competition two weeks ago. They made it to the final round and represented the IU MHA program extremely well. They have truly laid the foundation for future success and I look forward to seeing our program succeed in the future thanks to their efforts.

We have decided to start pairing with PASA (Public Affairs Student Association) for future events in the hopes of greater attendance at future events and even better networking opportunities. We have already started planning a social event with them for mid-November. Along those same lines we are now advertising our events to the undergraduate health administration students. Hopefully our efforts will pay off and we can all get more value out of future events.

The newsletter is going through some interesting changes so please check out the rest of the newsletter, especially the new Alumni Profile section. Thank you all for your time and I wish you all the best of luck with the rest of the semester.

Sincerely,
Dave Hyatt
MHASA President

MHA Alumni Profile: Doug Leonard, IU MHA ’78

Doug Leonard was a 1978 graduate of the Indiana University MHA program, and is currently the President and CEO of Columbus Regional Hospital (CRH) in Columbus, Indiana.

1. What is your background?

I grew up in South Bend, IN. I received my BS in management from the IU South Bend campus in 1976. I attended the IU MHA program from 1976-1978. During the calendar year of ’78 I did my administrative residency at Bartholomew County Hospital, now Columbus Regional Hospital. I was asked to stay on at the hospital and had a progressive series of jobs. I started under the title Administrative Assistant, which meant that I did projects. About a year and a half later I was promoted to Assistant Administrator of the support areas, a few years later I became COO and then CEO in July 1997. I am a sort of “mutant” in that I am at the same hospital where I did my residency. That doesn’t happen with to many hospital execs.

2. Was it your career goal to become a health system CEO?

When I started my career goal was simply to get a job. I was fortunate to go through the MHA program when we had a year long residency because that often led to a job at the same hospital. The other fortunate thing was that the MHA degree was often a direct path to being in administration. Today there are so many employees with MBA’s, or other advanced degrees that it means entering the organization at a much lower level in the org. chart.

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November

- 1st—Sarah Reed networking and interview workshop, 2–4pm in BS4032D, pizza will be provided
- 17th—Social Event, time and location to be announced
- 22nd—Thanksgiving Break starts

Be sure to check the IU MHA Student Association Facebook Group and your email for the most updated information on upcoming events.

JOB SEARCH & NETWORKING WORKSHOP EVENT

On November 1st, 2006, Sarah Reed, the Assistant Director of Career & Employment Services, will lead a workshop entitled “Job Search & Networking for Health Administrators.” The meeting will take place from 2:00–4:00pm in BS4032D. Pizza and soft drinks will also be provided during the workshop event.

Sarah is the Assistant Director of Career & Employment Services at the IUPUI Career Center. She also has a Master of Arts in Human Development Counseling from the University of Illinois–Springfield. Sarah is a National Certified Counselor, Master Career Counselor, and a Distance Credentialed Counselor. Sarah brings with her 11 years of career counseling experience in Indianapolis.

The workshop will cover the basics of doing an effective job search with networking. Topics that will be addressed include: resume writing, employer research, dressing for success, networking, job applications, interviewing, salary negotiations, and where to get more specific help with these issues.

PROFILE: IU MHA Alumnus Doug Leonard (cont.)

3. How did the IU MHA program help prepare you for your role as CEO of CRH?

The MHA program’s value to me was mostly that it exposed me to hospital operations. I had a degree in business so; much of the general business stuff was a repeat. However, I had never worked in a hospital and I really needed the information about hospital issues. The administrative residency was where the majority of my learning occurred. There are many things that you can’t really learn in a classroom setting. While the MHA program gave me my start, it was experience in the hospital that contributed most to my ability to be a CEO.

The hospital is an amazingly complex environment and you can’t possibly prepare for everything in the classroom. The concept of being a “life-long learner” has really applied in my life. I never cease to be surprised at what we encounter on a daily basis.

4. What is your fondest memory of your time in the IU MHA program?

My fondest memories of my time in the MHA program are some of the classes taught by people in the field. Allen Hicks was the CEO at Community Hospital. His classes were filled with stories and lessons from his career. John Render’s law class was one of the best. I also enjoyed getting to know my fellow MHA students, many of which stay in touch today.

5. What advice do you have for current students?

The first would be to broaden your thinking about where to do your internships. I am amazed about how few students contact me about doing an internship at our hospital. There may be an “urban bias” that causes students to overlook smaller or more remote hospitals. It’s a huge mistake. My second piece of advice would be to be ready to really contribute when you do your internship. Enthusiasm, hard work and a pleasant personality are key attributes and you should be very deliberate about displaying them. Finally, my advice is to try to become a specialist in a key area. For example, Six Sigma and Lean are really going to take off in hospitals. Look for the opportunity to get some training and experience in that area. You’ll be very marketable and in a lot of industries, you can’t advance in management without spending time as a Lean/Sigma expert. That will likely be true in hospitals also.

Finally, you’ll never regret a career in healthcare. The responsibility we have to the patient is both profound and rewarding. Focus on that and you’ll never go wrong in your career.