



THE NORTHLINE

February 2003

Winter Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Joanne L Reed, RHIT, CCS



A huge thank you to the Program Committee and AKHIMA Board members for all of their hard work on this year's conference! They have worked diligently to bring a diverse program with high quality presentations and vendor exhibits.

This is an excellent opportunity to obtain your CE's and get up-to-date information on what is happening on the national level, with HIPAA, legal issues, and to learn skills that will help expand your personal and professional growth.

This is the Official Call to Meeting of the 34th Annual Business Meeting of the Alaska Health Information Management Association. The Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24th during the luncheon break. I encourage everyone to mark their calendars and spread the word to reserve your spot at this year's AKHIMA Annual Educational Conference to be held April 23-25, 2003 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

"This is the Official Call to Meeting of the 34th Annual Business Meeting of AKHIMA..."
Jodi Reed, President

Also, plan to attend the second annual Silent Auction/Awards Evening Event on Thursday, April 24th. Last year's event was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. This is a great opportunity to network with your peers, voice your ideas and opinions to the AKHIMA Board, support our State Association, and just have a great time! There will also be awards presented to all of the volunteers who have contributed their time and efforts to all of the different committees and events this past year. Please email me or any of the members of the Program Committee if you or your organization would like to donate items for the silent auction.

More information on the upcoming conference and pre-conference workshop can be found on page, or go to www.akhima.org.



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
AKHIMA Scholarship	1
Recruitment News	2
Program Update	2
AHIMA Candidates	3
News Bytes	3
EDITOR: Marianne Dailey	

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Alecia Graham Memorial Scholarship is offered by the Alaska Health Information Management Association to individuals with HIM academic goals. This \$1000.00 scholarship is awarded to one individual per year based on information submitted through the application process.

Application forms and scholarship criteria are on the AKHIMA web site at www.akhima.org.



"I haven't failed, I've found 10,000 ways that don't work". (Benjamin Franklin)

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new". (Albert Einstein)



ANNUAL AKHIMA PROGRAM WILL “ENERGIZE” YOU!

The Program Committee has been working diligently to bring the AKHIMA membership a power-packed and relevant line up of topics and speakers.

- A change in location from previous years, the 2003 conference will be held at the BP Energy Center.
- Pre-conference coding workshop on Wednesday, April 23 will focus on E&M issues and OB coding.
- During the conference, topics to be covered will include HIPAA, JCAHO, Medical Record Review, and Risk Management. Also, Barbara Odom-Wesley, RHIA, AHIMA Past President will discuss Consumer Informatics and provide an update on national issues.
- The Annual Membership Business Meeting and Luncheon will take place on Thursday, April 24 at 12:00. Agenda items for the meeting include announcement of new board members and vote on recommended AKHIMA Bylaws changes.

Registration forms are in the mail, and included in this Northline. They are also available on the Association web-site at www.akhima.org. Don't delay, register today! See you in April!

RECRUITMENT: DO YOUR PART—BE A DONER



Red blood cells have an 120-day life span. Old cells get recycled and new cells are made. When this cycle gets impeded, it is “dis-ease”. Similarly, in HIM, if we do not, personally, move with the changing times, our practice becomes outdated and anemic. Professional health also depends on new students, who bring fresh energy and ideas, and who are vital to maintaining quality HIM programs. According to respondents to an AHIMA survey, HIT and HIA programs noted a 37% and 31% decline in enrollments, respectively. *We need a “new-blood” drive!*

The HIM profession has a wonderful past, and is currently very exciting. We have a broad educational background to apply to healthcare and related fields. We have so many career opportunities at our fingertips. How can you not be excited about the profession?

Several years ago AHIMA had a SHAPER program. (**S**tate **H**ealth **I**nformation **A**dvisor for **P**rofessional and **E**ducational **R**ecruitment). Each component state association had a “SHAPER” to coordinate recruitment activities. Through the work of a Recruitment Task Force, AHIMA modified this concept and developed “Recruitment Partners: Partners in the Future of HIM”; a more inclusive and flexible concept.

“Recruitment Partners” stresses the involvement of all members in recruiting students at the local level. HIM professionals in the field can assist the HIM educators in bolstering enrollments by attending career fairs, speaking to community groups, and visiting high schools. More information about Recruitment Partners, is available through the AHIMA CoP, or go to www.ahima.org/careers.

We all need to support our profession by encouraging others to investigate HIM as a career choice. Employers can help by investing in (hiring, mentoring, etc) new graduates. Let's all work to see HIM remain a field of well-qualified and well-trained professionals.

Look for more recruitment information in upcoming issues of the Northline.

Source: Kaplan-Quinn, Genia, and Robert Garrie. “A Recruitment Partnership for the Future” *Journal of AHIMA* 73, no. 4 (2002): 50-52

AHIMA Nominating Committee Announces 2003 Ballot

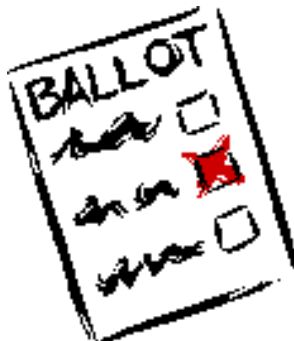
In February, the AHIMA Nominating Committee met in Chicago to prepare the ballot for the leadership positions in 2004. The candidates are listed as follows:

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA (PA)
Cheryl V. Homan, MBA, RHIA (OH)

DIRECTORS

Gail Graham, RHIA (VA)
Anita Hazelwood, MLS, RHIA (LA)
Rosanne Lippert, MHS, RHIA (CA)
Keith Olenik, MA, RHIA, CHP (MO)
Catherine E. Porto, MPA, RHIA (NM)
Denisha M. Torres-Lich, MS, RHIA, LHRM (FL)



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION

RHIA Practitioner

Marianne Mesich Allen, MBA, RHIA (VA)
C. Jeanne Solberg, RHIA (MN)

HIT Educator

Marsha K. Holey, MA, RHIA (MN)
Angela Picard, MEd, RHIA (FL)

COUNCIL ON CERTIFICATION

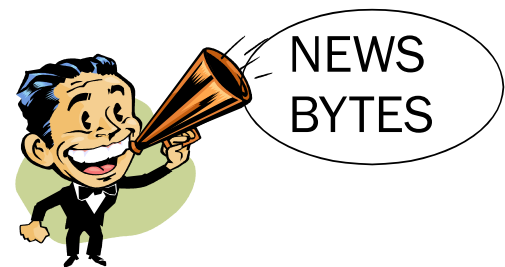
RHIA Practitioner

Winnona Vachon, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P (NH)
Melva D. Visher, MA, RHIA (NY)

HIT Educator

Helen D. Baxter, MA, RHIA (LA)
Nancy Coffman-Kadish, MS, RHIA (IN)

All members are encouragee to cast their vote. To help celebrate AHIMA's 75th anniversary, please encourage your fellow HIM professionals to vote. New this year will be a CoP dedicated to the candidates that will be open at the end of March. The polls open April 14 and close on May 30. Members will be able to cast their vote via the AHIMA Web site or by telephone. The May Journal of AHIMA will have the candidate's brief bio and photo, and the CoP will house a more detailed profile of the candidates and their position statement. Be sure to visit: <http://www.ahima.org> for upcoming details of the national election.



HIPAA SECURITY? FINAL RULE

The DHHS published it's work on February 20th. You can find the 49 page sleeper on the Federal Register at : http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a030220c.html.

"WHERE THE FUTURE CLICKS" CD

Carol Liberty has two copies of AHIMA's CD-ROM "Where the Future Clicks". She would be happy to send them on to anyone who is planning to do a career day presentation. Contact Carol at Carol.Liberty@uas.alaska.edu Carol.

COCO, THE COLOSSAL COLON

In case you missed the 2-17-03 issue of Modern Healthcare, I knew you would want to know this.

The University of N. Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center is debuting "Coco", a 40-foot-long, 4-foot-tall plastic replica of the human colon.

Modern Healthcare reports that "visitors can crawl inside the plastic colon while looking at polyps and other colon diseases, and playing at the 9 interactive activity stations".

Coco is going on a 20-city nationwide tour in hopes of getting people to talk about an uncomfortable subject, and increase awareness of colon disease, early detection and treatments.

Be watching, Coco may come to a city near you!





IGD-9
GPI
E & M

Visit us at
www.akhima.org

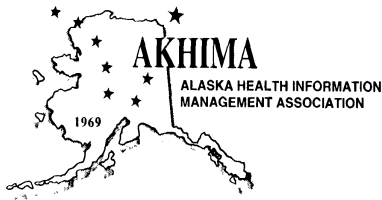


"CALL TO
MEETING"
ISSUE
April 24-25

pre-conference
coding workshop
April 23rd!

THE NORTHLINE

ALASKA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



PO Box 230335
Anchorage, AK 99523-0335

DELIVER TO:

Address Correction Requested

Please Forward