

MHA NEWS

September 2015

A note from the Program Director . . .

Hello!

I am so glad to welcome everyone back to another academic year. As some of you know, Dr. Steven E. Mattachione has asked me to serve as the new MHA Program Director. I began in this role on July 1, 2015. I very much look forward to growing the program in size and reputation, and I know we can get there.

Coinciding with my first day, the program began its self-study year for CAHME accreditation. Our previous site visit was September 2013, and we were accredited for three years. Thus, it is time to prepare for September 2016's site visit. Our annual reports and progress reports have been accepted by CAHME, and we expect further positive feedback in the future.

Our incoming class consists of eleven students. They are a mix of fresh baccalaureate graduates, practitioners, and current law students. We are extremely excited to have them with us, and we know that they will continue to push us to improve. This class was the first class that had a TOEFL minimum score of 100, a GRE requirement, and an interview requirement.

One of the hopes I have for this new class is an increased presence on the national healthcare administration stage. To this end, I have enclosed some statistics about student accomplishments and current costs. If you would, please consider your interest in supporting current and future MHA students.

All the best,

Christina Juris Bennett

<i>Summer 2015 Internship Locations</i>	<i>Post-Graduation Employment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Hospital, OKC• Hillcrest Hospital, Tulsa• Integris, OKC (2)• Mercy Hospital, OKC• St. Anthony's Hospital, OKC• St. John's Health System, Tulsa• VA Medical Center, OKC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Fellow, Mercy Ft. Smith, Ft. Smith, Arkansas• Administrative Services Manager, OU Medical Systems, OKC• Director of Patient Experience, Blake Medical Center, Bradenton, FL• Manager of Service Excellence, Mercy Hospital, OKC• OU College of Medicine (2)• OU Physician's Assistant Program

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our program has many successes to celebrate. Please join me in lauding the following accomplishments:

➤ **Faculty**

- Dr. Amir Khaliq was promoted to full professor
- Dr. Christina Juris Bennett was awarded the COPHSA Teaching Award
- Dr. Dale Bratzler was inducted into Delta Omega, the public health honor society



Figure 1 Professor Bennett receives her award.



Figure 2 Alia Ramirez with award.

➤ **Current Students**

- Margaret Travis, Jeffrey Sanders, and Chester Hendershot participated in the health administration case competition hosted by the University of Kansas, fall 2014
- Alia Ramirez, JD-MHA, and her partner placed second overall and Best Brief in the National Hispanic Moot Court competition
- Rachel Sibila, JD-MHA, and her team placed third overall in the Transactional

➤ **Graduates**

- William Winfree ('13) was promoted to Manager of Performance at Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Anisa Xhaja ('13) was promoted to Manager of Quality, Patient Safety, and Clinical Effectiveness at UAB Medicine
- Brad Bishop ('14) was hired as Manager of Business Operations at Mercy Primary Care Clinics in Oklahoma City
- Cody Wilson ('13) was promoted to Manager of Financial Analysis at Parallon in Richmond, VA
- Molly McCool-Hare ('14) was promoted to Business Planning/Operations Specialist at Norman Regional

Want to help?

To support student activities and ensure success of future OU MHA students, please consider donating to the Health Administration and Policy Department. Thank you.

