

# TxHIMA JOURNAL

TEXAS HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
A S S O C I A T I O N

May/June/July 2003



The new 2003-2004 TxHIMA Board of Directors, from left to right: Jackie Moczygamba-Public Relations Director, Stacey McIntosh-Legislation Director, Dana M. Choate-Education Director, Gwen Duffie-Convention/Meetings Director, Kim Suggs-President Elect, Beverly Rhodes-Past President; not pictured, Wade Harless-President.

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- **Hospital Payment Monitoring Program**
- **Outstanding Students Named**
- **Distinguished Member Awarded**

# Willingness to Serve

TxHIMA is asking you to actively participate in the continued growth and leadership of the association. Please give thoughtful consideration to submitting your name as a possible nominee for a position on the Board of Directors or as a volunteer to assist an officer or director with one or more of the responsibilities listed below:

### President

- \_\_\_\_\_ serve as Parliamentarian
- \_\_\_\_\_ serve as Financial Advisor

### Past President

- \_\_\_\_\_ assist with advertisement solicitation for web page
- \_\_\_\_\_ member of the Ethics and Conduct Committee (committee activated only if needed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ participate in Coding Roundtable discussion

### Education Director

- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate RHIA/RHIT Exam Review
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate CCS or CCS-P Exam Review
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate the Long Term Care Seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate Coding Seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate Technology Seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ assist with any seminar held in your area

### Convention & Meetings Director

- \_\_\_\_\_ assist with Convention
- \_\_\_\_\_ assist with Fall Symposium

### Public Relations Director

- \_\_\_\_\_ chair/member of Student Recruitment Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ chair/member of HOSA Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ chair/member of HIM Week Committee

### Legal Director

- \_\_\_\_\_ chair/member of Legislative Monitoring Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ chair/member of Drafting Legislation Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ assist with editing the Health Record Information Manual
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate Legal Seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ coordinate HIPAA Seminar

### Yes, I would like to be a Nominee for:

- \_\_\_\_\_ President (3 year term)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Director (2 year term)
  - Education
  - Legislation
  - Public Relations
  - Convention & Meetings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to:

**TxHIMA**  
**300 CM Allen Pkwy., #206A**  
**San Marcos, TX 78666**



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 #206A, San Marcos, TX 78666, FAX to  
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 TxHIMA@grandecom.net.

**www.txhima.org**

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 wade\_harless@hotmail.com

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 kimberly.suggs@hcahealthcare.com

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 Rhodesb@uthscsa.edu

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Stacey McIntosh  
 Stacey\_McIntosh@mhhs.org

**CONVENTION/MEETINGS DIRECTOR**

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 gwendu@baylorhealth.edu

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 jm38@swt.edu

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 danach@baylorhealth.edu

**May/June/July 2003**

**Articles**

Outstanding Students.....6  
 Richardson Wins Scholarship .....9  
 Diann Brown—Distinguished Member .....10  
 Hospital Payment Monitoring Program.....13  
 Join us on Galveston Island for Sea and Sand Galore! .....14

**Departments**

Willingness to Serve .....2  
 Outgoing President’s Message.....4  
 Meet Your Board—Gwen Duffie.....7  
 Meet Your Board—Stacey McIntosh .....8  
 Call To Session .....9  
 Call for Presentations .....12

The *TxHIMA Journal* is the official publication of the Texas Health Information Management Association (TxHIMA), a professional association chartered under the State of Texas non-profit corporate law. Views expressed in the *TxHIMA Journal* are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinion of the Texas Health Information Management Assoc., Editor, or Publication staff.

# Making a Difference Together

As I write this last article for the *TxHIMA Journal*, the incoming president for the year 2003-2004, Wade Harless, is delayed in assuming the role of leadership due to illness. I feel certain that his illness is temporary and that he will be ready to step into the presidency as soon as he is able. Wade is excited about being president of this organization and has many plans for its continued growth and success. As I summarize the organization's activities of a very productive year, I will also communicate some of the board's goals for the upcoming year, a duty ordinarily fulfilled by the new president.

First, I would like to thank the board members and all the volunteers who ensure the success of this organization. The board has worked diligently to achieve the goals of TxHIMA's 2001-2002 Strategic Plan. They balance busy schedules of family, work, and a score of other activities and do it well. In addition to the board volunteers, a number of other volunteers assist at workshops, answer the message board on the website, volunteer as guest speakers, write articles at a local, state, or national level, and support the organization in various other ways. I would also like to thank Madeline Perrett, Executive Office Director, for her substantial contribution to the success of TxHIMA. Madeline is one of the most dedicated individu-

als with whom I have had the pleasure to work. Part-timer, Ruthie Smith, also deserves recognition for her positive attitude and calm disposition. Together they are an extraordinary team, committed to this organization and to serving the membership.

This year TxHIMA's accomplishments include relocating the Executive Office from Austin to San Marcos. Relocation has been a board vision for several years, recently rising to the top of the organizational objectives. TxHIMA previously leased space in the THA, or Texas State Hospital, building in north Austin. This location was advantageous for many years, as we operated closely with THA, coordinating our annual state convention with them, among many other functions. Until recently, the Austin airport was nearby, making the THA building an appealing location for meetings. In 1996, TxHIMA conducted its own state convention, yielding higher attendance than in many previous years and with overwhelming support from the membership. That year marked the advent of a renewed growth period for TxHIMA. TxHIMA's desire to increase offerings for the membership, such as increasing the number of educational workshops, placed a burden on the Executive Office staff. It became increasingly apparent that TxHIMA did not have adequate space in the

THA building to operate effectively to meet the needs of the membership. By moving to San Marcos, TxHIMA increased office space at a lower price per square foot than available



Beverly Rhodes,  
MSHP, RHIA

in Austin. The new office is in close proximity to SWTSU and the HIM Program, which should prove advantageous as we offer opportunities for the students to work with the organization. We are excited about our new office, and Madeline and Ruthie would love to give a tour to any member who visits.

Other accomplishments for 2002-2003 include development of an aggressive education calendar, including expansion of audio conferences this year. Audio conferences have been very well received from the membership, especially from facilities in remote parts of the state. Dana Choate, Education Director, deserves thanks, as well as Gwen Duffie and Jackie Moczygemba, who helped with scheduling and coordinating workshops.

The board also voted this year to increase scholarship donations at a state level and at a national level through FORE (Foundation on Research and Education) donations.

Continued on page 5

After meeting the Outstanding HIT Student, the Outstanding HIA Student, and the TxHIMA Scholarship winner this year, I am more persuaded than ever that money put into our students is money well invested. As Public Relations Director, Jackie worked successfully with AHIMA on the FORE initiative.

Gwen Duffie, as Legislative Director, finalized processes involved with publishing the HIM Manual and has effectively handled the Privacy Manual from obtaining RFPs (Request for Proposal) to the current stage of final editing. Wade Harless raised his hand last summer at AHIMA Team Talks to volunteer to be on a special committee and ultimately put in many hours working on a grassroots type planning and information gathering committee for the organization at a national level.

The TxHIMA website continues to be an extremely effective communication tool for the membership and continues to improve in its effectiveness and functionality each year. Thanks to Donna Bowers for managing the website by working with our web team. And, by now, most of you are comfortable clicking on the website for the quarterly issues of the *TxHIMA Journal*, and I am sure that each of you agrees that the articles over the past year have been timely, interesting, and helpful. Thanks also to Donna for her Past President role as Editor of the *Journal*.

Finally, I would like to recognize Kim Suggs as the Convention Director for 2002-2003, now moving into the President-Elect position. The board's goal is for you, the TxHIMA member, to attend the

convention and enjoy yourself. We want you to leave the convention with sharpened HIM skills, additional knowledge, new contacts, and new friends. Just as a party host frequently does not enjoy the party as much as the guests, the Convention Director rarely has a moment's rest, attending to a never ending list of details required to be in place to ensure an effectively run convention. She directs the board, the Executive Office staff, the local convention committee, and the hotel staff in the countless duties, such as ensuring that name badges are accurate, registration lists are up-to-date, supply boxes are delivered, booth spaces are correctly assigned, speakers arrive and are introduced, the correct amount of food is delivered to the correct room at the correct time, vendor sponsors are recognized at the right times, vendor spaces are chosen for the next year's convention, and on and on, overseeing an endless array of detailed tasks.

There are many aspects of this organization that work very well, as highlighted above, and the board views these areas as a solid base. We inevitably make organizational changes in response to membership needs, budget fluctuations, AHIMA directives, and environmental changes. Just as we have learned to incorporate change into our jobs in health care, TxHIMA also anticipates change. This board is one of the most "change-willing" boards I have seen. The board discusses an idea, and then one of the board members volunteers to facilitate, and we are off on a new initiative for the organization. Last year, TxHIMA discussed with the members represented at the Fall Meeting House of Delegates the idea that perhaps

TxHIMA has outgrown the usefulness of the current structure of the state house. Watch the website for more information on ideas on how we can obtain more feedback and greater communication with the membership without conducting a formal House of Delegates.

Not all changes work when they are put into motion; however, I encourage us as a board and as an organization not to be afraid of change and trying new solutions to problems, both old and new. As Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work." He was not afraid of trying new things and failing, and when he succeeded, he succeeded big. For the record, I would not be comfortable with weathering 10,000 failures for TxHIMA, but I am confident of our ability to succeed.

Wade Harless chose this year's convention theme, "The Power of One, Strength of Many" with the red, white, and blue colors to honor the men and women in the military. The theme speaks to the board's belief that together we can make a difference. The convention's keynote speaker, Tim Salladay, said, "One person CAN make a difference." What would happen in TxHIMA if we all worked as if we believed that our contributions make a difference? When we combine efforts, we maximize our talents and resources and we are a strong profession. Now in AHIMA's 75th year, as a team, strong because of our members, we will achieve our goals, and we will succeed. We will make a difference with the power of one and the strength of many!

Thank you, TxHIMA, for a great year! God Bless you! ☺

# Outstanding Students

Each year TxHIMA awards two individuals enrolled in HIM programs, one from a Health Information Technology (HIT) program and one from a Health Information Administration (HIA) program, as outstanding students. This is a financial award, and it is the board's desire to see the money used to benefit these exemplary students. The students are nominated by the program directors at their schools. The program director sends TxHIMA a copy of the student's transcript; a reference letter from the director and from other instructors, site supervisors, or others qualified to recommend the student; a questionnaire completed by the student; and an original essay by the student focused on the choice of HIM (Health Information Management) as a career. These students are expected to maintain high grade point averages, although grades alone are not the deciding measure of excellence. These individuals also demonstrate leadership ability by working on committees or in organizations at school, work, or the community. Initiative and independent interpersonal skills are also important measures of potential. In addition, the TxHIMA board likes to see participation at some level with HIM activities and associations.

It was a pleasure to award the two young women who achieved

Outstanding Student recognition this year. Each is a role model for her peers in achieving success through dedication and hard work. It is exciting to see individuals of this caliber entering the HIM profession. TxHIMA wishes only the best for their careers in the coming years.

This year's Outstanding HIT



TraceAnn Grayer accepts the Outstanding HIT Student Award from President Beverly Rhodes.

Student is **TraceAnn Grayer**. Trace just finished her program at El Paso Community College, under the direction of **Jean A. Garrison, RHIA**.

Trace maintained an impressive 4.0 grade point average, was in the National Honor Society, and was on

the President's List and the Dean's List. She was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Her leadership roles include President of the Health Information Technology Club and acting as a mentor for new HIT students. She planned and facilitated the TxHIMA Spring workshop, in addition to facilitating TxHIMA audio seminars through the HIT Club. In addition to school achievements, Trace has been a Vacation Bible School teacher, a Red Cross volunteer, and a tutor. One of Trace's letters of recommendation gives a summary of Trace's qualities and skills: "Trace is honest, ethical, confident, intelligent, spirited, positive, and has a terrific sense of humor. Trace can laugh at herself. In this day and age, I consider this to

be so important. Life has become so stressful and the ability to see the humorous side during stressful times is indeed a gift." We are also able to attain insight to Trace's goals through this statement in her essay: "I will be able to help people by using my knowledge and skills to ensure that clinical information is available, accurate and confidential." TxHIMA is certain that with Trace's many attributes, she will have no problems achieving her goals.

**Lori Grigar** is this year's Outstanding HIA Student. Lori completed her studies at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, under the direction of **Sue Biedermann, MSHP, RHIA**. Lori's cumulative grade point average is 3.65 and 3.92 in her major, attaining Magna Cum Laude honors at graduation. She also made the Dean's List and was awarded the College of Health Professions Scholarly Achievement Award and Delta Zeta Sorority Academic Recognition. Lori's leadership roles include Vice President of the Order of Omega and activities and participation in other organizations, including Golden Key International Honor Society and Alpha Chi National Honor Society. She is a student member of AHIMA. Lori's leadership activities reach beyond school-related activities into the community, as she volunteered for area food drives. Lori's site supervisor at one of her internships, says of Lori, "Lori is a highly intelligent, perceptive young woman, who is a hard working self starter that invariably understands

exactly what a project is all about from the beginning and how to get it done quickly and effectively. Through assigned projects, I found Lori to be a creative, solution-oriented person who is equally effective



TraceAnn Grayer and Lori Grigar show off their awards.

individually as she is as a team member. Lori also possesses superior written, verbal and computer skills.” Lori states her career outlook: “As medicine continuously changes, my profession will change also. I will have the challenge of keeping abreast

of all the medical advancements, as well as learning new technological advancements that are sure to impact my career. Recently the HIPAA had a tremendous impact on the profession, and I know in the future there will continue to be such issues to deal with. This atmosphere of change and growth excites me.”

What a pleasure to give this award to a young professional so upbeat about her chosen career!

Congratulations to TraceAnn Grayer and Lori Grigar, the 2003 award recipients for Outstanding Student! TxHIMA applauds your scholastic achievements and will be

waiting to applaud your future endeavors and accomplishments. ☺

*For information on nominating a student for one of these awards: Each year TxHIMA sends the information packet to each school. Educators, please do not be discouraged about nominating a student because his or her background and scope of activities do not include all the aspects included on the application. Each student's skills and abilities are evaluated on a point system; therefore, although a student might score low in one area, scores in other areas might increase the total score to a higher level. The evaluations are de-identified as to student name and gender and school name by the Executive Office to the extent possible prior to sending them to the board for review.*

## Meet Your Board—Gwen Duffie

**Name:** Gwendolyn L Duffie, RHIA  
**Employer:** Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX  
**How long:** 2 years in current position  
**Job title:** Director, Medical Staff Services

**What other positions have you held within the HIM field?**

- Associate Director, HIM, Baylor University Medical Center (2000-2001) – Dallas, TX
- System Analyst, HIM, Baylor University medical Center (1999-2000) – Dallas, TX
- Associate Director, HIM, Baylor University Medical Center (1994-1999) – Dallas, TX
- Assistant Director, HIM, Swedish American Hospital (1993-1994) – Rockford, IL
- Instructor, Medical Records – Rock Valley Community College (1993) – Rockford, IL
- Supervisor, Information Processing and Release of Information, HIM, Swedish American Hospital (1991-1993) – Rockford, IL
- Record Processing Manager, HIM, Baylor University Medical Center (1989-1991) – Dallas, TX
- Evening Shift Supervisor, HIM, Baylor University Medical Center (1889) – Dallas, TX

**How did you become interested in a career in HIM?**

A family member pointed me in this direction. I saw it as a way to get into healthcare without being a nurse or a doctor.



**Describe someone that you feel was an important influence in you HIM career.**

There were three people who were very influential in my HIM career. Edra White, RHIA, Marilyn Green, RHIA and Donna Bowers, JD, RHIA to name them. Words to describe these three would be words such as, motivated, determined, task oriented, detailed oriented, self-confident, ability to delegate, politically astute, effective manager, knowledgeable, mentor, teacher and friend.

**What led to your interest in serving on the Board of Directors for TxHIMA?**

I wanted the opportunity to serve the members of TxHIMA. My interest included the ability to network,

Continued on page 8

# Meet Your Board—Stacey McIntosh

## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

**Name:** Stacey McIntosh, RHIA, CCS, CHP  
**Employer:** Memorial Hermann Healthcare System  
**How long:** 4 years, 6 months  
**Job title:** Project Manager – Office of Privacy Compliance

### What other positions have you held within the HIM field?

- Director, HIM
- Record Completion Manager
- Coding Coordinator
- MCCR Supervisor (Medical Care Cost Recovery)
- Educator (teaching HIM organization and supervision, and coding classes)

### How did you become interested in a career in HIM?

I always knew I wanted to be in healthcare. My mother was a nurse and at the time I was entering college she steered me away from the nursing field stating that nurses were "a dime a dozen." If we only knew then what we know now.....I knew I didn't want to be a dental hygienist because the thought of putting my hands in people's mouths wasn't appealing. So, as a senior in high school I had the opportunity to work co-op at a local hospital. I worked in the Medical Library which was directly across from Medical Records and that was my first exposure to the field. It was interesting enough that I looked into it further and determined that it was something I could do. The rest, as they say, is history.

### Describe someone who you feel was an important influence in your HIM career.

Obviously my mother was a big influence in the beginning but those that kept me going and interested in the field were my program director and professors in college (Ferris State University): Ellen Hanelein, Marie Sickelsteel, Paula Hagstrom, Cindy Konrad, and Judy Monson. I can't thank them enough for the strong foundation they instilled in their students. It served me well many a time.

### What led to your interest in serving on the Board of Directors for TxHIMA?

As I've been in Texas a little over five years, I knew how important it was to network immediately. While the basics

of HIM can transfer from state to state, laws and regulations may not. I needed to build relationships and learn as much as I could about HIM in Texas. I had the opportunity to be involved with the Houston Area Health Information



Management Association (HAHIMA) and serve on its board. The personal and professional relationships I made from that association are invaluable to me. Throughout my time in Texas I have come to respect many individuals (i.e., Larry Dunham, Donna Bowers) for what they give back to the profession. I hope to do likewise someday and being part of the state association is a way to do just that.

### What is a major goal that you would like to achieve during your current term as a TxHIMA Board member?

My major goal is to be useful. There are so many facets to our organization. If you like computers, there is room for you. If you like the legal aspect, there is room for you. If you like coding, there is room for you. If you like QA, there is room for you and much more! My goal is to monitor and report on any major impacts that significantly affect our profession. What does it mean to us the way we do business now and in the future? ∞

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Gwen Duffie, continued from page 7

which means that I needed to get involved in the association, as well as, meeting and helping others in this profession.

### What is a major goal that you would like to achieve during your current term as a TxHIMA Board member?

One of my major goals is to continue to provide TxHIMA members excellent educational opportunities at the fall meetings and the annual conventions. My predecessor, Kim Suggs, did a great job and she will be a hard act to follow. Another goal is to reach further into the membership to help bring up and empower the next generation of TxHIMA leaders. Don't be afraid to learn, knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily. ∞

# Richardson Wins Scholarship



Anna Richardson accepts the TxHIMA Scholarship from President Beverly Rhodes.

Congratulations to Ms. Anna Richardson, the 2003 recipient of the Texas Health Information Management Association, TxHIMA, Scholarship Award! Anna plans to graduate from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas in May of 2004. Anna was nominated by her professor, Linda Thomas, MSHP, RHIA. Anna has a 3.26 cumulative grade point average and maintains a 4.0 in her major in Health Information Management (HIM). Anna's academic achievements also include making the Dean's List and a previous two-year scholarship to Coastal Bend College. Anna's leadership activities include student membership in AHIMA and HIMSS, as well as the University's American College of Healthcare Executives Club. She held the position of secretary of the Southwest Texas State University chapter of SERTOMA, Service to Mankind, for five semesters. Throughout her college career, Anna has worked part-

time to provide the majority of her own support and educational expenses.

One of Anna's letters of recommendation reads, "I have observed Anna's performance in student group/team projects, presentations, and individual class participation and performance on projects and exams. In all of these, Anna unhesitatingly puts forth the effort to not only learn from the experience but to assure the results are beyond simple expectations. Her recognition to the Dean's List and achievement of 4.0 GPA (all A's) attests to her dedication to excellence... These accomplishments and activities all attest to Anna's motivation, leadership qualities and dedication to achieving her best." Anna's enthusiasm is obvious in her remarks in her essay: "I am very excited about my future and all of the career opportunities available for HIM professionals."

It is with pleasure that the TxHIMA board awards this scholarship to Anna Richardson to assist in decreasing her educational expenses. Like Anna, we are excited about her future in HIM.

TxHIMA currently awards one of these scholarships each year. The deserving recipient demonstrates excellent academic achievements, as well as participating in other activities within the school, church, or community, in addition to acknowledging financial necessity and a desire to continue in educational endeavors. TxHIMA sends this

information to all of the HIM schools in the state. For further information on this scholarship award, please call the TxHIMA Executive Office at 512/878-1961, or contact us by email at [txhima@grandecom.net](mailto:txhima@grandecom.net).

In addition, to the scholarship described above, which is targeted to students in an undergraduate HIM program, the board also funds a scholarship for graduate work in a health related field. For information on the Peggy P. Starks Scholarship award for graduate studies, go to the TxHIMA website at [www.txhima.org](http://www.txhima.org) and click on Scholarship Information. ☺

# Diann Brown— Distinguished Member

Congratulations to Diann Brown, MS, RHIA! The Texas Health Information Management Association (TxHIMA) honored Diann Brown with the Distinguished Member Award at this year's annual state convention. Three of Diann Brown's peers nominated her for this award, and the TxHIMA board unanimously agreed that Diann deserves the award for her outstanding contribution to the Health Information Management (HIM) profession.

Here are some of the accolades from Diann's peers who nominated her for the award: "In addition to her successful employment, Diann has made significant contributions to our professional organization at the local, state and national levels. She is an effective leader, setting goals, organizing resources and persevering to accomplishment... She is an excellent communicator and listener... She is a committed volunteer who gets the job done!" Another recommendation letter read: "What truly amazes me about Diann is her desire to serve the membership. She has worked endless hours trying to make every detail perfect. She cares about others and she wants others to have the same positive experiences she has felt over the years. She will go to all lengths to ensure every last person has a positive experience."

Diann began her HIM education by earning her Accredited Record Technician at Tarrant County Junior College in 1980. She

progressed to earning a Business of Science in Medical Record Administration in 1992 at Texas Women's University. Her most recent academic accomplishment is a Master of Science in Human Relations and Business, awarded in 1997 from Amber University.

Diann's career has also been a progressive one, encompassing a myriad of aspects of the HIM profession and functioning in a leadership capacity for the majority of the years. Her many areas of experience include all aspects of staff management and training; operations involved with DRG management, including coding, billing, and reimbursement; medical staff services; survey preparation; developing a quality initiative plan for HIM; productivity initiatives; statistics; budgeting; and project management. She is currently the Director of Health Information Services at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She is responsible for all operational activities of the health information service in this large department. The most recent challenge in her career is being named the organization's HIPAA leader responsible for implementation of the privacy standards.

In addition to a demanding education and work schedule, Diann has consistently been involved in the HIM professional organization, starting in the local association in Fort Worth as President and then as District President. She began her tenure on the state board, TxHIMA,

in 1995 as the Convention and Meetings Director, serving in this position for four years.



In 1999, Diann moved into the President-Elect position, followed by President in 2000 and Past President in 2002. Diann has also served on a national level for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), as a state delegate, as a member on the House of Delegates work group, and as Chairman of the Professional Resource Task Force. Currently, she serves on the International Federation of Health Records Organization Convention Planning Committee.

Diann set new standards for the state board position as Convention and Meetings Director in her first year on the board. TxHIMA traditionally had its state convention in conjunction with Texas Hospital Association (THA); however, member attendance and satisfaction had been steadily decreasing over time. Diann took the initiative to break off from the THA state meeting for TxHIMA to conduct its own annual state convention. The board supported this initiative and gave Diann liberty to design, develop, and conduct

Continued on page 11



President Beverly Rhodes congratulates former President Diann Brown on her Distinguished Member Award.

the convention. Success was obvious the first year, measured by a dramatic increase in membership attendance. The membership and the vendors were extremely satisfied by this new venture, and the TxHIMA board was pleased that the budget exceeded revenue expectations while maintaining expenses.

During her tenure as President-Elect, the board decided to initiate a state website, and Diann led this project, helping to bring to fruition a board vision. Diann hired the web consultants, worked with developing the contract, and ensured quality production and all aspects of development. Diann also had oversight management for a project to revise the state HIM Manual, a comprehensive manual that provides instruction to both HIM members and nonmembers.

Other professional accomplishments for Diann Brown include Distinguished Alumni Award from Tarrant County College, Mosaic Pin Award Winner for promoting diversity in the workplace, nomination for an American Health Information Management Association Triumph Award, and Success is in the Cards Ad Campaign. Diann is a frequent guest speaker at various local, state, and national events. She has

published numerous articles in journals, papers, and books. Diann is also a member of the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council HIPAA Task Force, the TrailBlazer Intermediary Advisory Committee, and the Tarrant County College HIT Program Advisory Council.

In addition to her contributions to the HIM profession and a demanding career, Diann finds time to volunteer on a community level. She works on a health fair committee, volunteers for Meals on Wheels, and contributes to her church in a volunteer capacity. It is easy to see why one of Diann's peers says of her, "Regardless of the role she has played, Diann has always been committed to excellence. She stands

well above the rest." The TxHIMA board is very pleased to honor Diann Brown with the Texas Health Information Management Association Distinguished Member Award. We thank her for her dedicated and exemplary service to the HIM profession. ∞

*To nominate someone for the Distinguished Member Award, go to the TxHIMA website at [www.txhima.org](http://www.txhima.org) and click on Scholarship Information, Distinguished Member. Send the completed form and all required attachments to the TxHIMA Executive Office.*



Stacey McIntosh (L) and Diane Cleveland (R) have a good laugh with "Austin Powers". "Austin's" appearance was sponsored by Brian Rathe at Docudata. Watch the TxHIMA website for more fun convention photos.

*Call for*  
**P R E S E N T A T I O N S**

for the  
TxHIMA 2004 Annual Convention  
Friday, June 4 through Sunday, June 6, 2004  
Intercontinental Hotel, Houston, Texas

Do you have ideas/suggestions for next year's educational program? Please list them below.

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following attachments:  
Program outline  
Objectives  
Resume/Biography of the presenter

*Return to the Executive Office:*  
**TxHIMA**  
**300 South C. M. Allen Parkway, #206A**  
**San Marcos, Texas 78666**

# Hospital Payment Monitoring Program (HPMP)

by Greg Walker  
Communications Specialist I  
Texas Medical Foundation

The Texas Medical Foundation (TMF), through a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), implemented the Hospital Payment Monitoring Program (HPMP) on February 1, 2003. HPMP replaces the Payment Error Prevention Program conducted in the Medicare 6th Scope of Work (SoW).

In the 7th SoW, CMS is requesting that Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) monitor hospital admission and coding patterns by ongoing analysis of Medicare discharge data. In addition, QIOs will continue to review all cases referred by the Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC). These cases are part of a random sample selected by CMS to determine statewide payment error rates.

CMS will also direct QIOs to conduct HPMP projects in identified focused areas. Emphasis will be placed on reducing variation related to medical necessity of inpatient admission. TMF is developing a HPMP project on one-day stays for DRGs 127, 143, 182/183 and 296/297. Not every hospital will be included as a formal participant in this project, but we strongly encourage all hospitals to do medical necessity of admission and DRG validation reviews on their short stay admissions. Though some specific DRGs will be focused on in short

stay and readmission projects, TMF is also considering some coding projects, such as one for DRG 475, respiratory diagnosis with ventilator support. To assist you with coding, the TMF Coding Guidelines are available on the TMF Web site [www.tmf.org/pepp/codeguide.html](http://www.tmf.org/pepp/codeguide.html). These provide an overview of Coding Clinic guidelines that are pertinent to each of the included DRGs.

The long-term goal of HPMP is to help inpatient prospective system hospitals monitor payment patterns by analyzing data, conducting focused audits, and implementing system changes to prevent payment errors. Therefore, TMF will continue to provide data, education, and assistance to hospitals and work with multi-hospital system corporations to meet this goal.

As noted above, each hospital should be auditing areas of concern it identifies through its own internal processes or by using the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER) – Version 3, sent by TMF to the designated contact at all acute care PPS hospitals in March 2003. TMF plans to update and distribute this data twice a year. PEPPER is a Microsoft Excel program that contains hospital-specific Medicare data for PEPP projects (DRG 416 Septicemia, One-Day Stays, DRGs 079/080 Complex Pneumonia, DRG 140 Angina Pectoris, DRG 127 Congestive Heart

Failure and Same-Day and Next-Day Readmissions) for fiscal years (FYs) 2000, 2001 and 2002 and for 12 single and 7 paired DRGs for FYs 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

PEPPER also contains reports on your hospital's top 20 DRGs for One-Day Stays for FYs 2000, 2001 and 2002 and on the statewide top 20 DRGs for One-Day Stays for FY 2002, as well as the average length of stay for these DRGs.

PEPPER is on a diskette that provides the data in a flexible format. This will enable hospitals to prioritize areas in which to focus auditing and monitoring efforts with the goal of identifying and preventing payment errors. The program also contains some suggested interventions to guide hospitals in their monitoring and review activities. For more information about PEPPER, visit TMF's Web site [tmf.org/pepper/index.htm](http://tmf.org/pepper/index.htm).

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# Join us on Galveston Island for Sea and Sand Galore!

The TxHIMA Fall Symposium and House of Delegates will be held on September 12 – September 13, 2003 at the San Luis Resort on Galveston Island.

Escape to the perfect year-round resort with temperate weather and 32 miles of sparkling Gulf Coast beach. Explore one of Texas' most historic cities and visit unique locations like The Strand Historical District. With over 1000 shops and a variety of clubs and restaurants, the island is a getaway offers unlimited entertainment.

The Fall Symposium begins on Friday, September 12, 2003 with the Leadership Conference that will offer speakers addressing a wide range of topics for HIM professionals interested in developing their leadership and management skills. Topics will range from discussion of the generational differences that managers face when managing staff, to exercises designed to help you identify your leadership and management style.

The Leadership Conference is free to anyone interested in attending, however, pre-registration is required.

The 2003 TxHIMA House of Delegates will then convene on Friday afternoon to discuss AHIMA issues and vote on Association business. Non-delegate participants and observers are welcome to attend.

Saturday, September 13, 2003, the Fall Symposium will be held, offering continuing education hours for all HIM professionals. There will

be a variety of topics ranging from performance improvement, clinical data management, and technology.

## Arrangements

Early registration for the Fall Symposium and Leadership Conference is \$85.00. Regular registration is \$105.00

The San Luis Resort is located on Galveston Island, just 50 miles south of Houston. Rates for single and double rooms are \$115.00. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-392-5937. You must identify yourself as a TxHIMA attendee to receive the negotiated rates.

There are two major airports located in the Houston area. Houston Hobby airport is the closest airport to the San Luis Resort and is located approximately 35 miles (40 minutes) away. Houston Intercontinental Bush Airport is located approximately 75 miles



(90 minutes) from the San Luis. Galveston Limousine Service, Inc. offers ground transportation to and from all the airports. Estimated standard charges are \$25.00 per person one-way from Hobby Airport and \$30.00 per person one-way from Intercontinental Airport.

Join us in Galveston... When it comes to fun, Galveston-style, the beach is just the beginning! ☺

## OFFICIAL CALL TO ORDER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES

by Wade Harless, RHIA, TxHIMA President

TxHIMA Fall Meeting – September 12 & 13, 2003  
House of Delegates – September 12, 2003  
San Luis Resort, Galveston, Texas

In accordance with Article VI, Section 6.2 of the  
Texas Health Information Management Associations Bylaws.