

# Progress Note



## The Newsletter of the Student Health Information Management Association



Fall 2009/Spring 2010

### TSU Students Awarded THIMA Scholarships

Volume 1, Issue 1

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- Members volunteer at National Kidney Foundation Event
- Alumnus honored by employer

#### PriceDoc.com

PriceDoc.com is a free website where consumers who are uninsured , underinsured , or seeking elective procedures can view and reserve prices with qualified providers for cash or credit card payments.

Consumers can identify local providers and review provider experience, credentials, and patient referrals.

#### Upcoming 2010 Events:

- Senior Luncheon - March 31st
- THIMA Annual Meeting 2010  
Chattanooga Marriott & Convention Center,  
Chattanooga, TN  
April 7-9
- Community Service - TBA

Two students in TSU's Health Information Management program have been awarded scholarships by the Tennessee Health Information Association.

THIMA awarded three scholarships statewide, so to have two of them awarded to our students is a real honor and testament of the academic excellence not only of our students, but the HIM program as well.

THIMA's highest award, the Evelyn Freeman Scholarship (funded by DocuVoice), was awarded to TSU HIM Senior, Julie Brymer.

The THIMA Scholarship was split between TSU HIM Junior, Michael Gregory and MTSU student Ashley Lamb.

According to the THIMA website "Two \$1,000 scholarships are available annually through THIMA to Tennessee students who are planning a career in Health Information Management (HIM). The scholarships are the THIMA Scholarship (\$1,000) and the Evelyn Freeman Scholarship (\$1,000). The Evelyn Freeman Scholarship is funded by DocuVoice."

For those interested in applying for the next round of awards, the site has the following information: "Candidates for the scholarship must submit applications using the online process through the THIMA web site. The decision to award the scholarship is

made by the Scholarship Committee. The use of the award is left to the discretion of the recipient."

All applications must be received by June 15th and be accompanied by two letters of recommendation (one from a clinical instructor, if possible), official transcripts of post-high school education, and verification of acceptance from your HIM Program Director.

Information can be obtained at: [http://www.thima.org/careersandcolleges\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.thima.org/careersandcolleges_scholarship.htm).

### HIM Students Volunteer at National Kidney Foundation Event

On Saturday October 2nd, five HIM Juniors from TSU participated as volunteers in the "Kidney Early Evaluation Screening" (KEEP) held by the National Kidney Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

The event was held at the Bellevue Presbyterian Church and the TSU volunteers were joined by volunteers from Vanderbilt and Belmont universities. "This event would be impossible without our volunteers and we really

appreciate them!" said NKF program director Samantha Rogers.

The screening events are held throughout communities in Middle Tennessee each year. For more information, go to: [www.nkfmdtn.org](http://www.nkfmdtn.org)



Paula Murphy, Michael Gregory, Tonya Terrell

Not pictured: Ashley Crump, Delana Norfleet

Homecoming 2009 Fundraising a Success!



Breakfast is served!  
Alumni, Junior and Senior students at Homecoming

On Saturday, November 7th, HIM students past and present participated in TSU's annual Homecoming celebration. The students coordinated the setting up and operating of a food concession area along the parade route at the east end of the Student Center to raise money for their respective student organizations.

Each year for more than 50 years the TSU Homecoming celebration has brought thousands to the campus for an entire week of activities that culminate on Saturday with the parade and football game.

HIM alumnus Shakine Hardaway was particularly instrumental in the organization and success of this year's event. Thanks to his considerable skills and hustle, the group was able to serve an impressive breakfast and lunch menu. The breakfast portion was doing such brisk business that some named the operation "Shak-Donald's" in honor of Hardaway's menu of egg and sausage sandwiches.

The weather was perfect for the event and the crowds were very good, making for a very successful endeavor this year. The group is already looking

ahead to next year's event.

Hardaway has established an organization page on Facebook for alumni of the TSU HIM program called: "H.I.G.H.E.R." (Healthcare Graduates for Higher Education & Research) and encourages all TSU HIM students past and present to join.

RETENTION  
POLICY

Minimum GPA of 2.0  
Grade of C or above in  
major courses

Failure to maintain in  
any course will require  
repeating the course in  
the next semester it is  
offered (pending  
approval of advisor)



HIM Junior, Rolando Brown,  
explaining the benefits of an  
HIM degree to Ahmed Sayid

HIM Family Grows by 1!

The TSU HIM department are happy to announce the recent arrival of Emery Ramal Wade, born to HIM Senior Audrika Wade and her husband on October 26 @ 3:16 P.M.

!!!CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Free Writing Help

Need help to write better papers? Who doesn't! Thankfully, such help is available year-round in the Writing Center of the Academic Enrichment, Advisement & Orientation department (AEAO) located in the Learning Resource Center. Call: (615) 963-5551 or 963-7419

Email: jlgrimes@tnstate.edu or bkannard@tnstate.edu

Graduating Seniors

Seniors wishing to graduate in Spring 2010 must apply online at the commencement website: <http://www.tnstate.edu/commencement> by December 20, 2009.

No applications will be accepted after this deadline and students who have not applied by the deadline will not be allowed to participate in the May ceremony. Apply now!

Fall 2009 HIM Open House

On November 18th, the HIM department held its first Open House event in room 319 of the Tom Jackson Industrial Arts Building.

The event was held to highlight our excellent department and the wider field of HIM and present it to interested students who are as yet undeclared majors or who are considering changing majors.

Three students expressed interest in the program, so faculty and administration were encouraged by the result of this preliminary event.

HIM Juniors Michael Gregory, Delana Norfleet, Chrissy Prescott, and Tonya Terrell accompanied Department Head Dr. Kunnu in making a presentation to a group of undeclared majors in the

theater of the Learning Resource Center 2 days earlier.

The presentation consisted of student testimonials of why they chose the program, a Power Point presentation, and an impassioned presentation by Mrs. Kunnu. Since HIM is not yet widely known, such positive promotion will help to inform others of this excellent field.

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<b>Wealth of Knowledge and Experience Shared by Guest Speakers</b>			
<p>As rich as lectures and textbook materials can be for students, there is no substitute for the knowledge and experience of seasoned veterans who speak “from the trenches” on the frontlines of the HIM industry.</p> <p>The HIM department at TSU is committed to bringing a host of such professionals to enrich the learning of our students, and we have already had a stellar lineup of excellent speakers in the Fall semester alone.</p> <p>Yancey Riley, HIM Director at Tennessee Orthopedic Alliance, spoke on October 6th of the EMR and its progressive</p>		<p>implementation in their Middle Tennessee clinics.</p> <p>On October 14th, Robert Holman, a 20-year veteran of Ford Motor company who holds a Masters in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, spoke on “Key Strategies” for success to the Foundations of HIM class.</p> <p>John Phillips, a Certified Surgical Technician at a Nashville Neurosurgery practice, spoke regarding the importance of accurate health records on November 10th to Professor Brock’s Introduction to Health Records class.</p> <p>Anita Tipton, a Registered Nurse at Meharry’s DCI Dialysis Clinic, spoke to the Medical Terminology class on November 17th.</p> <p>The Legal/Ethical Aspects class was recently honored with a 90-minute conversation with Dr. Benjamin Rawlins, General Counsel, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Meharry Medical College. He holds three degrees and has served as a board member and Committee Chair for NACUA, the National Association of College and University Attorneys, and received their Distinguished Service Award for 2007.</p>	
		 Dr. Benjamin Rawlins	
<b>Community Service at United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee</b>			
<p>On Monday, November 30th, HIM students from TSU gathered for a morning of community service which benefitted the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Middle Tennessee.</p> <p>Organized by Mrs. Brock, in conjunction with the local Nashville chapter of UCP, the event brought students to work on the maintenance and</p>		<p>upkeep of the grounds.</p> <p>Community service events such as this one allow students, representing the HIM program at TSU, to give back to the community in which they live and study, and be ambassadors for TSU in general, and the HIM program in particular.</p> <p>According to their website, UCP “serves individuals with all</p> <p>kinds of disabilities” while their specialty is “service to individuals with physical disabilities which affect mobility.”</p> <p>The Nashville chapter is located at: 1200 9th Ave North, Suite 110, near the intersection of Jefferson St and 8th Ave North. Those interested in giving of their time or other resources are encouraged to contact them at: (615) 242-4091 or online at: <a href="http://www.ucpnashville.org">www.ucpnashville.org</a></p>	
			
<b>Stimulus Creates Huge Demand for HIT Professionals</b>			
<p>A recent edition of “Fierce Health IT”, an e-newsletter publication of the American Health Information Management Association, has reported on an increased demand for HIT professionals due to the influx of stimulus funds.</p> <p>The article sates: “With all the new money flowing into health IT, particularly with the \$35</p>		<p>billion or so in federal money (a net \$19 billion after accounting for expected efficiency savings) for electronic health records, someone’s going to have to build, install, deploy and train people to use the systems, right?</p> <p>Studies estimate that there was a need for 10,000 to 15,000 new health IT professionals nationwide, but those were conducted before the enactment of the federal stimulus back in</p> <p>February. So there’s clearly a huge demand for a health IT workforce.” This news is exciting for those in other areas of IT considering migrating to health care. For RHIA’s and soon-to-be RHIA’s, this is an area of specialty with much promise.</p> <p>Those interested in subscribing to FierceEMR can sign up at: <a href="http://www.fierceemr.com">www.fierceemr.com</a></p>	
			

### TSU HIM Alumnus Honored By Employer

An alumnus of the TSU HIM program was one of four who recently received the Credo Award for their consistently outstanding work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Nick Suter, who has been a health data coordinator in VUMC's Medical Information Services department since September of 2006, graduated from the TSU HIM program in the spring of that same year.

In his current position, Nick coordinates the efforts of 20 scanning specialists as well as monitoring and assigning the QA process for their work.

**By Employee:**

In addition to his daily routine, Nick oversees the clinical internship for two TSU students who do an 8 week rotation

An article highlighting the award in VUMC's weekly newspaper, *The Reporter*, states "He has a great administrative capacity and has lead the scanning team to a measurably increased productivity and efficiency each year he has been at Vanderbilt."

Nick has also been awarded the "Rising Star" award for 2009 by THIMA.



## 2010 THIMA Annual Meeting

The 2010 annual meeting of the Tennessee Health Information Management Association will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 7-9 at the Chattanooga Marriott & Convention Center.

Online registration for the event will close at 6:00 pm EST/5:00 pm CST on Tuesday, March 30th. This year's event features excellent guest speakers and workshops.

There are several different registration types and attendees can pay by mail or credit card via the THIMA website at:

www.thima.org

Legal Aspects	
C E D A	ETHICS

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Management Association**

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**College of Health Sciences**  
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## The Newsletter Con

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We welcome articles submissions  
to the field of Health Information

Management.

 **TENNESSEE**

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