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The Newsletter of the Student Health Information Management Association

## Welcome Juniors!

To all those entering the HIM program here at TSU, we wish to welcome you and confirm you in your excellent selection of HIM as your career of choice!

You are entering this field at what is most certainly the greatest time of advancement and expansion in its history. Many factors are now converging which are changing the entire industry and creating new and exciting positions.

On the technological front, the progressive increase in the capacity and functionality of systems is breaking boundaries daily and creating the need for health information and informatics professionals.

On the legal front, the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act contained within it are creating the need for professionals

in the areas of quality, compliance, and privacy.

The long-awaited transition to the ICD-10-CM overhaul of clinical coding is just beginning, creating the need for RHIAs and RHITs who are proficient in this new classification system for capturing data that will enhance research and lead to greater levels of reimbursement for health care providers.

The final version of the "meaningful use" criteria used for receiving government incentives for EMR adoption will create the need for some to present the benefits of an EMR to health care entities across the US. RHIAs are particularly suited to this task, having the threefold skill set of "health", "information" and "management".

These are just some of the positions that will need to be filled by the ranks of graduates over the next few years. In fact, the broad application of an

RHIA certification is one of the most often cited reasons that students choose HIM.

So Juniors—  
"Welcome to Your Future!"



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## AHIMA Launches Career Resource Website

In their effort to constantly improve the base of resources made available to HIM professionals and students, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has launched a website companion to the popular "Career Assist" feature on their website. It's called "Health Information Careers" and offers all kinds of

information, and resources for those seeking to mark out a professional path that best matches their skill set and interest.

The site also has embedded videos featuring interviews with HIM students and professionals offering their experience and advice. The site

also offers a job board and a section entitled "Getting That 1st Job", which every student will want to read. Job seekers can post resumes for national consideration.

The URL is:  
[www.hicareers.com](http://www.hicareers.com)





## Department Head Corner— Elizabeth Kunnu, Ed.S, M.Ed. RHIA, CPAR



Welcome to the Health Information Management program in the College of Health Sciences at Tennessee State University, where **students matter most!** HIM is dynamic in an ever-changing world of healthcare. Technology and legislation are having a great impact on the HIM profession.

I am so glad that you have chosen to be a part of this profession which *soars higher, dreams larger, grows stronger, climbs farther, and inspires others* to manage health

data and protect the privacy and security of health information.

Additionally, as one of the fastest-growing occupations in the health care industry, a career in HIM places you right at the intersection where health care meets the cutting edge of technology.

Remember our motto:  
**Healthcare + Technology = Success for you!**

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics has forecasted that “*employment for health information professionals is expected to grow much faster than average*” and that “*job prospects are very good*”. Recent changes in the economy have only served to confirm your choice of HIM as a wise one which will continue to benefit you well into the future.

I am looking forward to what we will all learn and experience together this semester!

## AHIMA 2010 National Convention



The 82nd annual AHIMA national convention will be held September 25-30 in Orlando, Florida at the Gaylord Resort. The theme of this year’s convention is “Prosper Through Change—Global Transformation, Historic Opportunities” Given all the major changes happening in the HIM field, this theme is not hype by any means.

All the information pertaining to the conference, sessions, and hotel/travel can be obtained through AHIMA’s website dedicated specifically to the convention - <http://www.ahima.org/events/convention/default.aspx>

## THIMA 2011 CSA Meeting



The annual meeting of our component state organization (CSA), the Tennessee Health Information Management Association, will be held from March 14-16, 2011 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

There will be many excellent speakers, presentations, vendors, and breakout sessions, making this event a must for HIM students.

Next to the national convention, the CSA meeting is the greatest opportunity for networking and making beneficial connections and important first impressions with HIM professionals from throughout the state.

It will also be the first meeting with our new President, Seth Johnson, who will, no doubt, have words of

encouragement and direction for us all.

THIMA has an email distribution list through which members can receive notification of events, legal issues, scholarships, etc.. Members can sign up on the THIMA website at:

[www.thima.org](http://www.thima.org)



## HIM Students Active in Volunteering

In keeping with TSU's mission to be not only a force in education, but a quality member of the local community as well, students in the Health Information Management department have been active in volunteering their time and effort to a number of local entities.

Past recipients of the labor of TSU volunteers include the National Kidney Foundation, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Middle Tennessee, and the March of Dimes.

Among the most recent local entities with which TSU students partnered is "House of Mercy" charities. HOM was founded in 1996 as a safe haven for women and families seeking to transition back into a functional and productive life after episodes of abuse or substance issues.

The house is located at 4908 Kentucky Ave, not far from the TSU campus and they are constantly in need of volunteers to perform a number of simple, practical tasks related to their operation.

One HIM student spent 2 afternoons there and did everything from transporting residents to clinic appointments, making phone calls to local food banks, to taking a newly donated vehicle to the car wash. For those who love children, short periods of babysitting are constantly needed when the mothers have appointments, work, or classes. Interested persons can contact them at:

(615) 385-7686 or online at: [houseofmercynashville.org](http://houseofmercynashville.org)



## TSU Senior Awarded AHIMA Foundation Scholarship

The AHIMA Foundation improves health information management by supporting the people, research and resources that advance the HIM profession.

Through scholarships and grants for HIM students, professional education and advancement programs, research, and a comprehensive HIM re-

source library, the AHIMA Foundation takes the lead in advancing the HIM industry.

The AHIMA Foundation offers merit scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students pursuing degrees in health information administration and health information technology.

TSU senior, Michael Gregory, was among the 20 nationwide recipients of this year's undergraduate merit scholarships.

"I am honored to have been selected and was glad that some well-deserved national light will be shed on our program here at TSU," said Gregory.



<http://ahimafoundation.org/>

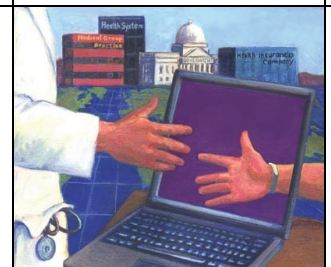
## Free Writing Assistance

Many of us have difficulty with writing and composition but there is free help available at the TSU Writing Center. The Writing Center is a component of the AEAO (Academic Enrichment Advisement & Orientation) and is located in the LRC (Learning Resource Center) in room 102.

The Writing Center is a support program that supplements instruction for writing courses in AEAO as well as in other courses in the University. It offers group writing sessions, individual writing sessions, English intensive labs, and special workshops. They also offer computerized tutorials and evening tutorials.

The Writing Center operates Monday—Friday and the scheduled hours are posted at the beginning of each semester. All individual sessions are by appointment and last for 50 minutes. They can be reached by phone at: (615) 963-5521 or by email at:

[jlgrimes@tnstate.edu](mailto:jlgrimes@tnstate.edu)



**Academic  
Enrichment,  
Advisement &  
Orientation**





One of the most beneficial and enlightening components of an HIM education is the Professional Practice Experience (PPE), commonly referred to as a "clinical". Students get to spend time in an HIM department shadowing professionals and doing hands-on work. Nothing runs a thread through all the classroom learning and sews it all up like a clinical practicum.

Due to Nashville's status as a national and regional epicenter of healthcare, TSU students enjoy the benefit of a wealth of clinical sites in which to practice and further their learning and experience.

All the students we spoke to had the same response when asked about the technical clinical experience; "It was an invaluable component of the program.", "I learned so much!", "One of the best things about the program, so far.", "Everyone at my site was so helpful."

With all these positive comments, we are all looking forward to the management-based professional clinical assignments in the Spring!



Vanderbilt HIM Staff and TSU alumni  
with Damaree Perez and Michael Gregory

Book Shelf	Save the Date	New RHIA's!	SHIMA Officers
<p>The HIM faculty recommends the following titles for reading:</p> <p><b>Titles by Atul Gawande</b> (available via the online "Tigris" service of the TSU library) - Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science</p> <p><b>Fiction -</b> Deadly Errors by Allen Wyler "A thriller that only a doctor could have written. Wyler's sense of the worlds of the hospital and operating room are unsurpassed. You'll feel as if you're right there!" - Best-selling author M. Palmer</p>	<p>Important events to keep in mind this semester -</p> <p>Homecoming 2010</p> <p>Senior Luncheon March 2011</p> <p>Community Service</p> <p>HIM Recruiting</p> <p>Juniors must become student members of AHIMA (\$35)</p>	<p>Congratulations are in order for 4 of our recent graduates who passed the RHIA exam and earned their credential!</p> <p>Audrika Wade July Brymer Denise Marshall Bonita Payne</p>	<p>The incoming Junior class must hold elections the following offices:</p> <p>President (P) Vice President (VP) Treasurer (T) Secretary (S) Chaplain_(C)</p> <hr/> <p>Senior Officers -</p> <p>Michael Gregory (P) Ashley Crump (VP) Chrissy Prescott (T) Mickela McNeal (S) Damaree Perez (C)</p>
<p><u>RETENTION POLICY</u></p> <p>Minimum GPA of 2.0</p> <p>Grade of C or above in major courses</p> <p>Failure to maintain in any course will require repeating the course in the next semester it is offered (pending approval of advisor)</p>		<p><u>Tennessee State University Publication Statement</u></p> <p>Tennessee State University: A Tennessee Board of Regents Institution. TSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to education a non -racially identifiable student body. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need assistance with this material may contact the Health Information Management department at (615) 963-7441.</p>	