Leaders from across Baylor University and the healthcare industry came together earlier this school year to celebrate the opening of the Robbins Institute’s new office facilities on the third floor of the Cashion Academic Center.

Students are socializing and studying in the new suite’s common area which also has offices for program faculty and staff, a small library, and storage space. The suite fosters the close-knit, collegial environment the Institute strives to create among staff and students. In a broader sense, the new office space enables the Institute to better achieve its objectives associated with contributing to health services research and education.
BAYLOR CHAMPIONS YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS

Sponsors International Conference on Transition Planning

How does a teenager with Down Syndrome find the best job prospects as an adult? Where does a 20-year-old with hemophilia or cerebral palsy get the support to manage a complex medical condition?

There are many questions on the road to independence for children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN). Baylor University will champion their cause by partnering with Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital to support a conference to improve the transition to adulthood for those with chronic disability and illness.

The 14th Annual Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital Chronic Illness and Disability Transition Conference will be held Oct. 16-18, 2013, at Texas Medical Center in Houston.

THE NEED FOR BETTER TRANSITIONS

Families say there’s an urgent need for better transition planning as their loved ones with chronic health issues become adults. Nationwide, only 40% of CYSHCN families report that their child received the services necessary to make successful transitions to adult health care, work, and independence.

The need is especially great for young people with neurodevelopmental disabilities and complex medical conditions. Advocates say one of the major problems is the lack of infrastructure, processes and pediatric workforce knowledge and skills to prepare families and CYSHCN to transition. At the same time, the adult medical system is ill-prepared to successfully receive young adults with special health care needs.

FINDING SOLUTIONS, COLLABORATION

The conference brings together the international healthcare community - along with experts in legal, policy, advocacy and family support services - to improve CYSHCN transitions.

“This conference is designed to help strengthen the dialogue between health professionals, CYSHCN and their families and community leaders so that we can improve the transition to adult based care,” said Albert Hergenroeder, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Chief of Adolescent Medicine and Sports Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital, and Program Director for the Baylor/Texas Children’s Hospital Transition Conference. “In doing so, we will improve the transition into adulthood for young people with chronic healthcare conditions.”

BETTER TRANSITIONS

THE NEED FOR

The conference provides an in-depth look at issues and roadblocks in the transition from pediatric to adult-based services for CYSHCN clients.

Clinicians can attend conference discussions that apply to both primary and specialty care practice. They’ll have many opportunities to gain an interdisciplinary perspective and learn how teams can best facilitate the important transition from pediatric to adult-based health care.

The conference also provides updates on policy, advocacy and research developments for CYSHCN issues. Families and young adults with special healthcare needs will receive practical medical, legal and insurance information to better navigate their future.

All conference participants can attend a discussion of legal issues involved in health care insurance during the CYSHCN transition to adulthood. There will also be opportunities to talk with faculty and exchange ideas and insights for the most successful planning and transitions to adulthood.

TO REGISTER GO TO:
www.BaylorCME.org

ROBBINS SCHOLAR

Excels in National Essay Contest on Healthcare Management

Hilary Griffin, a Robbins MBA Healthcare candidate, is the 2nd Place winner in the annual Richard J. Stull Student Essay Competition in Healthcare Management. The national contest, sponsored by the American College of Healthcare Executives, showcases the ability of tomorrow’s healthcare leaders to describe key industry issues and developments.

Griffin’s winning essay is titled “Ready…Set…Transition: A Case for Accountable Care.” She explores issues in the field of Transition Medicine – namely, the process of helping children and young adults with chronic medical conditions or special needs make the transition to adulthood.

Griffin was first introduced to Transition Medicine during her administrative residency at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. Since she was working at a pediatric institution, the discussion of a standardized transition process became vital to giving patients the right care, at the right time, and in the right setting. As today’s healthcare environment shifts focus from volume to value-based care, Transition Medicine is a topic that deserves attention – which led Griffin to write her essay.

Growing up in Sealy, Texas, where her father was pastor of a thriving, non-denominational church, Griffin says she was drawn to serve others. Born into a family of ministers, Griffin says the unique opportunities she had at a young age fueled her passion to help those walking through some of life’s most difficult circumstances.

After graduating from Texas A&M University with a BBA in Business Honors and Finance, Griffin chose to further her education as a candidate in the Baylor MBA Healthcare program. She believes that her MBA studies will transition her to a fulfilling career serving others and making a meaningful difference.

Griffin said she is honored to have placed 2nd in the essay competition. She represented Baylor University and the Robbins Institute when she accepted her award at the Congress on Healthcare Leadership, sponsored by ACHIE, March 11-14 in Chicago.
Strong leadership. Secure financial position. Outstanding student support. Across the board, the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program earns high marks from the independent Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME). Robbins is already fully accredited by CAHME, having been awarded initial accreditation in May 2010. In preparation for reaccreditation, the Robbins program completed an intensive self-study in academic year 2011-2012, followed by a site visit in November 2012. Since its founding, the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program has been recognized by CAHME and by the American College of Healthcare Executives in Chicago IL.

The CAHME Site Visit Team Report recognized the following strengths of the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program:

- The Program has developed a VIBRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL that plays a key role in shaping the competency model and the curriculum.
- The strong leadership of the Program ensures that STUDENTS RECEIVE PERSONALIZED ATTENTION including significant professional development, residency placement and substantial job support and alumni networking.
- The Program benefits from a MAJOR BENEFICAR from significant ALUMNI AND INSTITUTIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
- The MBA core and Healthcare Administration FACULTY HAVE INTEGRATED THE HEALTHCARE CONCENTRATION INTO THE MBA PROGRAM in a seamless, integrated fashion. The connectivity of the faculty, the students, the courses, and the curriculum is impressive.
- The Program has made a significant COMMITMENT TO MONITORING THE STUDENTS’ PERFORMANCE throughout the Program, especially during their residency, and during their early careers.
- The Program demonstrates a significant COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENTS’ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ETHICAL AWARENESS.
- The Program provides an EXTENSIVE ORIENTATION TO TEAM WORK, and substantial team experiences and assignments are offered throughout the curriculum.

CAHME will vote on reaccreditation for the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program in May 2013.
FACULTY FOCUS:
Professor’s Groundbreaking Research Explores Society’s Dark Side

Scott Cunningham is generating widespread dialogue on social ills through his pioneering research as an Assistant Professor in Economics at the Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University. Cunningham is a popular teacher and a prolific scholar and his research has attracted national press coverage for its important and sometimes surprising conclusions. He examines cause-and-effect on grave social issues — from the impact of parental drug use on child abuse to the role of violent video games on aggressive behavior, and the impact of the Internet on prostitution.

One timely study contradicts established laboratory research on the connection between violent video games and aggressive behavior in youth. “Understanding the Effects of Violent Video Games on Violent Crime,” now under review at the Quarterly Journal of Economics, disputes the findings of lab studies that show an increase in aggressive behavior among youth when playing violent video games. Instead, Cunningham’s results indicate that all video games, violent or non-violent, are incredibly time consuming activities. In the lab, they simply explore the direct effect of violent media on “aggression.” But in the real world, kids are busy spending dozens of hours on each game. The lab simply doesn’t examine the opportunity cost, or what the authors call the “incapacitation effect,” of playing these games. It may be that kids substitute playing violent games for actually participating in violent criminal activities.

A second research project, by Cunningham and colleague Keith Finlay, examines the implications of curbing meth drug production by restricting access to pseudoephedrine (Sudafed). Their paper “Parental Substance Abuse Use and Foster Care: Evidence from Two Methamphetamine Supply Shocks,” was recently published in Economic Inquiry. The first in a series of planned studies, this research explores the effect of parental meth use on child abuse and the subsequent increase in foster care.

Another line of Cunningham’s research that recently attracted widespread press coverage examines prostitution and political conventions. Along with coauthor Todd Kendall, Cunningham examined data from the 2008 political conventions in Denver and Minneapolis, to measure the impact of such a large number of visitors on the local prostitution market. Their paper, “Men in Transit and Prostitution: Using Political Conventions as a Natural Experiment,” was published in The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy. The research drew interest from national media including Huffington Post and Financial Times because of the potential impact on the 2012 presidential nominating conventions in Tampa and Philadelphia. Interestingly, the authors speculate that the increase in demand for prostitution services likely stems from attending media as opposed to attending delegates. Two other Cunningham publications in Sexually Transmitted Infections and Journal of Urban Economics examine how the Internet has changed the market and demographics of prostitution.

Finally, “The Long-run Effect of Abortion on Sexually Transmitted Infections,” authored by Cunningham and published in the American Law and Economics Review, is the culmination of several years of study. Cunningham is the recipient of numerous honors including the Phelps Stokes Award from the University of Georgia and the H.B. Earhart Fellowship.

An English major during his undergraduate studies at the University of Tennessee, Cunningham was an aspiring poet, but graduate studies at the University of Georgia led to his transformation as an outstanding research economist. Cunningham and his wife Paige have three children: Miles, Willow, and Ben. Together, the couple coordinates spiritual formation and community relationships at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, where Cunningham is an elder.
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  www.baylor.edu/business/healthpolicy