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In this era of “big data,” which enables clinical and financial data for a patient to be linked across the continuum of care, health services researchers require more sophisticated skills. These include more capability to manage and analyze those data than were previously required in the discipline. Such skills, applied to the wealth of data becoming available in the health care and health services worlds, offer the opportunity to address many of the questions we currently face; they will help inform how the health care system needs to evolve. This is especially true in light of the increasingly greater segments of our population that are older, chronically ill, and vulnerable.

The PhD program in health services research will train students with high levels of competency in those requisite skills, equipping them for their quest in finding the best ways to deliver effective and efficient health care. Aligned with the mission of the Robbins Institute, this program will simultaneously train researchers and house faculty who are equipped for and dedicated to rigorously creating the evidence needed to inform health policy makers’ and leaders’ decisions and strategies. These researchers will work from diverse places of employment, including academic, government, and private settings; and in diverse industries such as pharmaceutical, medical device, and healthcare delivery systems across Texas, throughout the nation, and around the world.
A team of students from the Robbins MBA Healthcare Program joined 35 other CAHME-accredited programs at the 8th Annual Health Administration Case Competition in Birmingham, Alabama. The case competition, conducted annually every February by the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Department of Health Services Administration and sponsored by the UAB Health System, gives students the opportunity to analyze a real-world scenario, and prepare and present solutions to a panel of judges comprised of senior healthcare executives.

This year, Baylor was represented by Sarah Carroll, Stephen Garner, and Zahra Kasam. The team assumed the role of an external consulting firm and developed a strategy for Capital Caring, a not-for-profit palliative care provider operating in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Their recommendations focused on Capital Caring differentiating itself by enhancing its use of proactive telemedicine technologies and processes.

This annual case competition is extremely valuable as an opportunity for healthcare administration graduate students to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained to a real-world situation. The students also have the opportunity to network with fellow healthcare administration students and faculty from other programs, as well as executives from healthcare organizations across the country.

With the graduation of the Class of 2014, the Robbins MBA Healthcare program at Baylor University marked its tenth year of producing highly trained, well-prepared future healthcare leaders. In response to a growing need in our nation for people who can effectively manage complex medical systems, Baylor introduced a healthcare administration specialization in the fall of 2003. With the Class of 2014, the program has graduated 104 students. The program alumni hold significant healthcare leadership positions across the nation and are making important contributions during this critical time in our nation’s healthcare history.

The Robbins MBA Healthcare program’s mission is to promote academic excellence through the education and preparation of medical administrative professionals, stimulate intellectual activity through the development of new knowledge through research, and promote community excellence through the application of knowledge through service. The program is one of more than 80 healthcare administration programs across the U.S. and Canada that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education, and one of only 16 MBA programs that has been awarded accreditation.

Healthcare MBA Celebrates TEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The students in the class of 2015 are making significant contributions in their residencies at leading healthcare systems around the nation.
Stephen Chandler is completing his residency as a senior administrative fellow at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township, Mich. Huron Valley-Sinai is a part of Detroit Medical Center, which is owned by Tenet Healthcare, one of the country’s largest investor-owned hospital systems. Stephen’s focus at Huron Valley-Sinai is the creation and implementation of strategic growth initiatives and finance-focused project analysis. Stephen holds a BA in Political Science from Louisiana State University.

Stephen has several years of healthcare experience, including an administrative residency at Willis-Knighton Health System in Shreveport, La., and three years as a policy adviser to members of Congress on healthcare policy and healthcare delivery system reforms. During his time on Capitol Hill, Stephen gained an in-depth understanding of preventive healthcare, healthcare reimbursement, and the Affordable Care Act. He helped author legislation to promote wellness for senior citizens, a reflection of his commitment to improve the healthcare delivery system.

Driven by the desire to merge his interests and experiences, Stephen began looking at graduate programs and was attracted to the Robbins MBA Healthcare program at Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business. He knew that by combining an emphasis on finance, economics, strategy, marketing and operations with a healthcare specialization and the faculty’s access to leading health care facilities nationwide, he would secure the business knowledge needed to be a leader in the healthcare industry.

Stephen was awarded the Brigadier General Donald B. Wagner and Jan Wagner Endowed Scholarship earlier this year and has been selected by the faculty to represent the Robbins program as a member of its case competition team.

For Tina Bui, working in the healthcare industry was not always a part of the plan. After graduating from New York University in 2008, Tina worked for several years as a paralegal in a law firm, and later a Dutch bank in New York City. It was not until her grandmother fell ill that Tina truly experienced the intricacies of the healthcare system. Having seen the personal impact actors in the medical field can have, Tina chose to pursue a path that gave her personal satisfaction and enabled her to make a tangible difference in the world and on the people around her; Tina joined the Robbins MBA Healthcare program at Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business in the summer of 2013.

The program’s focus on healthcare and its location in her home state were big draws for Tina. Tina says the most valuable aspect of the program is the residency, where she has the opportunity to test and apply the theories and instruction provided during the didactic portion, to real-world situations. Currently, Tina is completing her residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She is working on several projects, including identifying opportunities for growth and analyzing data to improve financial outcomes.

A lways one to set the bar high, Hannah Reigel completed her undergraduate education in just three years with a double major in economics and Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. After earning her degree, she spent four years working for Humana as a claims analyst, focusing on financial recovery, and organizational orientation and training of new hires.

To further her career in healthcare, Hannah chose to continue her education with the Robbins MBA Healthcare program at Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business. She believes the collaborative student environment is an asset to Baylor’s MBA Healthcare program because it prepares students to manage complex healthcare problems in a team environment.

Earlier this year Hannah was chosen as the leader of Baylor’s healthcare case competition team. She will be competing in the student case competition sponsored by the North Texas chapter of ACHA in November and will represent Baylor at the University of Alabama-Birmingham’s Healthcare Case Competition in 2015. Hannah is currently in Oklahoma City completing her administrative residency at Mercy Hospital. She describes her time there as a valuable and unique experience. She admires the hospital’s extensive involvement with the community and is appreciative of the once-in-a-lifetime unlimited access to senior leaders that this position has provided.

Hannah is the 2014 recipient of the AUPHA’s Foster G. McGuire Scholarship.
2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BILL AND DONNA BAKER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Nick Marshall is this year’s recipient of the Baker Scholarship. Nick is from Santa Clarita, California and received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. Nick is currently completing his residency at Baylor All-Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD B. WAGNER AND JAN WAGNER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Stephen Chandler is this year’s recipient of the Wagner Scholarship. Stephen received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University and is from Shreveport, Louisiana. Stephen is completing his residency at Harewood Valley Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township, Michigan.

J. WILEY GREEN SCHOLARSHIP

Kelsey O’Neill is this year’s recipient of the scholarship established by the family of J. Wiley Green. Kelsey is a graduate of Baylor University, having received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Kelsey is a native of the Waco area and is currently completing her residency at Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple, Texas.

FOSTER G. MCGAW SCHOLARSHIP

Hannah Reigel is this year’s recipient of the AUPHA/McGaw Scholarship. The Foster G. McGaw Scholarship is administered by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. Hannah is from Marshfield, Wis., and is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Spanish. Hannah is completing her residency at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

JIM AND DEBBIE GREENWOOD ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Faulkenberry is awarded this year’s Greenwood Scholarship. Michael is completing his residency at Methodist Dallas Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Michael calls Panama City, Florida, home and graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

JEFFREY K. AND LESLIE S. NORMAN FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Erin Sigler is awarded the 2014 Norman Scholarship. Erin is completing her residency at Lake Pointe Medical Center in Rowlett, Texas. Erin is from Canton, Ohio and graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

FOCUS

Shannon Johansen, Robbins Institute for Health Policy and Leadership’s own administrative associate, was selected to receive the Hankamer School of Business’ Outstanding Staff Award for the academic year 2013 – 2014. Shannon provides exceptional support to the faculty and students within the Robbins Institute. She has earned a stellar reputation across Baylor University as being cheerful, professional, courteous, and dedicated.

Congratulations, Shannon!
FLEMING APPOINTED TO LEAD NEW PhD PROGRAM

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