



AlumNet **UPDATE**

December 2008



Summer Residencies

Now, more than ever before; we ask that you consider serving as a preceptor for an MHA student summer resident. We understand the financial difficulties facing our industry; however, with relatively little investment you will provide these students with an invaluable opportunity. The residency is a vital part of the student's academic and professional development, providing them an opportunity to contribute to your organization through applying what they have learned in the classroom. The class of 2010 is enthusiastically beginning their search for summer residency sites. Please contact Mark Reitan at 612-625-7459 or mreitan@umn.edu if you have questions about summer residencies. To get written material on sponsoring a resident, [click here](#) or contact Megan Gonyo at mgonyo@umn.edu or 612-625-7096.

MHA Annual Fishing Trip

The Classes of 2009 and 2010 returned to Train Bell Resort for the annual fishing trip the first weekend in September. Connie, owner of Train Bell, reported that the students were the best classes ever. The students went fishing with Vern, and played sand volleyball as well as many spirited games of Catch Phrase. Thank you to all the alumni who made a special contribution to the 'Fish On' society to underwrite the fishing trip. A special thanks goes to Howard Peterson, Managing Partner of TRG Healthcare, LLC of Philadelphia, PA for his generous contribution. The class of 2010 is hard at work planning next year's trip to ensure that it is the best trip ever.



Student Recruitment Season

The time is upon us to begin the recruitment process for the MHA class of 2011. If you know of any interested students, please contact Mona Rath at mrath@umn.edu. Applications are currently available via [SOPHAS](#) and the application deadline is March 15, 2009. Interviews will begin January 23, 2009. Also, if you are in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and are willing to serve as a panelist on the interview committee, which meet on Fridays throughout the winter and spring, please contact Diane McClellan at mccl005@umn.edu or 612-626-7349.

Wegmiller and Pitts Lecture on Integrated Systems

In October, David Pitts '69 and Don Wegmiller '62 returned to campus to engage with students and provide an energetic lecture on the pursuit of integrated health systems in the United States. Both Pitts and Wegmiller discussed the capital strains on providers as well as the need for new clinical and business models to reduce utilization and costs while increasing quality, safety and value transparency.

These pressures coupled with downturns in investment portfolios of health systems will result in greater need for capital efficiency and thus encourage integration. Students from both classes attended the lecture and found it both entertaining and thought-provoking. Thank you David and Don!

Sweetland Scholarship

The Sweetland family generously established a scholarship to honor the memory of John Sweetland '61, who passed away on October 22, 2007. John, son-in-law of James A. Hamilton, co-taught Problem Solving for many years with Bright Dornblaser. He was instrumental in the professional development of MHA students for many years through his dedication to the Program. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to MHA students. We greatly appreciate this generous contribution. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship, please contact Adam Buhr, Development Officer for the Minnesota Medical Foundation, at 612-626-2391 or buhrx021@umn.edu.

Star Tribune Salutes Carl Platou

Carl Platou's '51 hard work in helping to establish a Biomedical Research Program at the University of Minnesota was cited by the Twin Cities' [Star Tribune](#) in naming him as someone "whose accomplishments helped make this a better place to live during the past year." Carl has worked tirelessly over the past four years as a senior adviser to Dr. Deborah Powell, Dean of the Medical School, to help secure both government bonds and private donations to build seven facilities that will add more than 650,000 square feet of biomedical research space in the coming years. A description of the proposed research complex was described in the August 2008 issue of Minnesota Biosciences. Carl, never one to shy from a challenge, has pledged that the University will raise more than \$125 million. If you are interested in donating to the research program, please contact Carl Platou at 612-625-3997.

Javon Bea Featured in Inside Healthcare

[Inside Healthcare](#) recently featured Mercy Health System and current CEO, Javon Bea '78. Mercy was the first health system recipient of the

prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. In the article, Bea credits Mercy's organizational structure that puts caregivers at the top, its laser focus on the Baldrige framework supported by Mercy's relationship with its physicians, and its attention to metrics of accountability as the foundation of their Baldrige application and success.

Modern Healthcare Hall of Fame Winners

Scott Parker '62 was inadvertently omitted from the list of University of Minnesota MHA graduates on the Modern Healthcare Hall of Fame list. Parker was inducted in 2005 in recognition of his instrumental leadership of Salt Lake City-based Intermountain Healthcare. Our deepest apologies for the oversight!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the University of Minnesota MHA Program, thank you so much for all that you do to benefit the Program. We are grateful for such wonderful alumni; you are a gift!

Contact Information

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AlumNet UPDATE is a brief, monthly summary of important news and activities from the MHA Program and your Alumni Association / Foundation. *AlumnNet Notes*, is published every fourth month with feature articles, photos and graphics.