
R. Timothy Stack (M.H.A.’77/AHP), president and chief executive officer of Piedmont Healthcare in Atlanta, died on July 30, 2012, at the age of 60 after a brief illness. His experience at VCU launched him on a long and successful career in healthcare. Stack was an active alumni member and served the Department of Health Administration as president of the alumni association from 1992 to 1993. He was an M.H.A. residency preceptor for more than 15 years, mentoring over a dozen students. The department is seeking to establish the R. Timothy Stack Professorship to honor Stack’s many contributions to us and to the field of practice. We invite you to join us in making a gift to this fund either online or by check made payable to the MCV Foundation/Tim Stack Professorship sent to the department, P.O. Box 980203, Richmond, VA 23298-0203.

Student News

• Doctoral candidate Albert Liu has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the College of Health and Public Affairs, part of the Department of Health Management and Informatics at Central Florida University in Orlando, Fla. He is expected to complete his H.S.O.R. Ph.D. requirements before the end of this year.

• At the students’ request, Cindy Watts, Ph.D., chair, Department of Health Administration, hosted an informal discussion on the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision on the constitutionality of the federal healthcare reform bill. The discussion at Dr. Watts’ home was attended by students from both the first-and second-year classes along with lawyer and adjunct professor Liz Blue and lawyer and affiliate professor Larry Palmer.
Students from the Class of 2014 have returned with wonderful stories about their summer internships in a variety of settings in Virginia, New York, Georgia, North Carolina and California. Projects ranged from marketing, strategic planning and flow analysis to human resources, health information technology and policy development. A special thank you to the alumni who helped make our students' summers memorable.

**Faculty News**

- Gloria Bazzoli, Ph.D., and Patricia Edinboro, Ph.D., in collaboration with Lindsay Sabik, Ph.D., of the VCU Department of Healthcare Policy and Research, School of Medicine, and Spencer Harpe, PharmD., Ph.D. M.P.H, Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science, School of Pharmacy, have been awarded funding through the VCU Health Policy Collaborative to design and implement a comprehensive and rigorous study of the integrated case management programs of Virginia Premier Health Plan.

- In September, Dr. Watts and Yasar Ozcan, Ph.D., along with former VCU professor Lou Rossiter, Ph.D., will present a workshop titled "Effective Medical Institutions: Recipe for Success" at the Sechenov Medical University in Moscow. The event is sponsored by Philips Healthcare and was initiated by Eric Silfen, M.D., M.S.H.A. (M.S.H.A.’95/AHP), vice president and CMO of Philips.

- Dr. Ozcan will serve as speaker and facilitator at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September. Dr. Ozcan will speak on health care performance measurement as it relates to managerial and policy decisions.

- On Aug. 30, Dr. Bazzoli served as a panel member at a Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater Panel discussion in Newport News. The panel and the lively discussion that followed centered on the care of the uninsured and the underinsured, and the impact of health care reform.

**Alumni News**

- Three of our alumni have been named in Modern Healthcare’s 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare for 2012: Marilyn Tavenner (M.H.A. ’89/AHP) at No. 8, Richard Bracken (M.H.A. ’77/AHP) at No. 74, and David Bernd (M.H.A. ’73/AHP) at No. 96. You can see the entire list here.

- Jami DelliFraine, Ph.D. (Ph.D.’04/AHP), was one of the recipients of the Helen Yerger/L. Vann Seawell Best Article Award for outstanding editorial achievement in Healthcare Financial Management magazine. “Do EHR Investments Lead to Lower Staffing Levels?” was published in February 2012 in collaboration with several of her colleagues at the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas.

- Veronica Sikka, Ph.D. (B.S.’01/H&S; M.H.A.’03/AHP; Ph.D.’09/AHP; M.D.’09/M), just finished a month-long internship in New York, working for ABC News’ Medical Unit. Read more.
• Bassam Kawass will serve as moderator and Dr. Watts be a discussant at a Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater Panel Discussion from 5-8 p.m. Sept. 11 at The Town Point Club, World Trade Center, in Norfolk, Va. The topic of the discussion will be Integrating the Principles of Patient-Centered Care.

• Jan Clement, Ph.D., hosted an alumni dinner during AcademyHealth’s Annual Research Meeting in June in Orlando, Fla. The event was attended by several alumni, most of whom participated in the conference program. Laura McClelland, Ph.D., and two Ph.D. students, Patrick Shay and incoming student Matt De Puccio, also presented posters at the conference.

• William Haugh (M.H.A. ’08/AHP), chief executive officer at Georgetown Community Hospital in Georgetown, Ky., received the American College of Healthcare Executives Early Career Healthcare Executive Regent’s Award in June at the Kentucky Hospital Association Annual Meeting. The Early Career Healthcare Executive Regent’s Award recognizes ACHE members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of healthcare management excellence and the achievement of ACHE’s goals.

• Congratulations to Eric Young, FACHE (M.H.A. ’07/AHP), on his new job as director of Patient Care Services at Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk, Va.

• Congratulations also go out to Abby Swanson Kazley, Ph.D. (Ph.D. ’06/AHP), on her recent appointment as program director for the Master of Health Administration Program at MUSC College of Health Professions.

• We will be conducting information sessions for both our M.H.A. and M.S.H.A. programs this fall. M.H.A. information sessions will be held 12:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, and 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9. M.S.H.A. information sessions have been scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m. Oct. 4 and Nov. 8. Visit www.had.vcu.edu for more information.

• This fall, the department is pleased to host two class reunions in Richmond, Va. The M.H.A. Class of 2002 will hold its 10-year reunion during the weekend of Sept. 28, and the M.H.A. Class of 1977 will hold its 35th reunion during the weekend of Oct. 26.