

## President's Message

*"When you walk with purpose, you collide with destiny."*

**Bertice Berry, PhD**

**By DeAnne Kribell, RHIT**



At this time of year I choose to reflect on the past twelve months; births and deaths, challenges and accomplishments, goals and successes. Time has a funny way of changing your perspective. Remember when you were a child and waiting for Christmas seemed to take forever? I remember once someone explaining this concept. If you are five years old and are waiting for a year to pass, that is one-fifth of your lifetime. When you are an adult, i.e. 36 years old, one year is one thirty-sixth of your lifetime. Therefore, when it seems like each year seems to pass quicker than the one before it, it may be true.

The moral of the story is to slow down, enjoy this time of year. Make sure to spend quality time with friends and family. Make memories, and don't worry about all the details. Experience Christmas with all the wonder and excitement of a five-year-old!

May you and your family have a blessed and safe holiday season!

*Rob, DeAnne, Shelbi, Kolton and Quinn Kribell*





## **House of Delegates**

### **House of Delegates – Denver 2006**

#### **By DeAnne Kribell, RHIT**

As Jennifer and I visited the Mile High City, we knew one of bigger challenges was going to be the votes in the House of Delegates. We had several items to vote on that day.

- Action Item #1D was regarding electronic health records. The concern was to facilitate a single source of legal health record and eliminate duplication of records in multiple formats to meet legal requirements. The focus of the Resolution was changed from “medical” and “patient” to “health” and “individual”.
- Action Item #1E was regarding the Healthcare Security certification. The HIMSS Board of Directors has decided not to continue to offer the CHS through HIMSS. AHIMA was approached to determine whether there was interest in assuming delivery and maintenance of the CHS exam and credential. The House of Delegates voted to offer maintenance for the CHS credential. AHIMA will now offer a CHPS credential for Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security. Maintenance for the CHP credential will continue.
- The most controversial vote that day was regarding Inclusive Membership. When Jennifer and I went into the House of Delegates that day, we were very uncertain on this topic. We spent the morning listening to viewpoints for both sides of this vote. After much contemplation, we felt very comfortable in our vote. We voted in favor of inclusive membership and it passed by a small margin. Here is what the change in inclusive membership means:
  - First, the House approved a motion to modify the bylaws to require that the president-elect, president and past president of AHIMA be AHIMA-approved credential holders.
  - Next, the House approved an amendment to the AHIMA bylaws that eliminated the associate membership category and defined active members as individuals interested in the AHIMA purpose and willing to abide by the Code of Ethics.
  - The change removed the requirement that active members hold an AHIMA credential.
  - The bylaw change also required the majority of members of the Board of Directors to be AHIMA-credential holders.
  - It eliminated the associate membership category for component state associations.

This was a very controversial vote and everyone was reminded that credentials are and will continue to be an important way of demonstrating HIM expertise. AHIMA intends that HIM credentials will still represent the highest mark of achievement for HIM professionals. The next year will be a transition period in which these changes are implemented. The future of the organization depends on everyone’s ability to embrace these changes as an opportunity for growth and development.



DeAnne and Jennifer at the National Convention in Denver, CO



## **SDEHRA**

**By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA**

The South Dakota Electronic Health Record Assessment (SDEHRA) is a statewide multi-stakeholder assessment to determine the current use of electronic health records and information exchange in the state. The SDEHRA results will be shared with the Electronic Health Record Subcommittee of the Governor's Health Care Commission.

The project sponsored a “kickoff” conference in October with sites in Sioux Falls, Chamberlain, Rapid City and Aberdeen. Laura L. Adams, President and CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) spoke on Improving Health Care Through Health Information Exchange. The RIQI is currently leading and coordinating multiple initiatives to promote the adoption and full use of health information technology and health information exchange throughout Rhode Island. The video of Ms. Adams’ presentation and other “kickoff” conference comments is available for public viewing at the SDEHRA website at [www.sdehra.org](http://www.sdehra.org). Future activities of the project include collecting data through surveys and focus group meetings. A wide variety of healthcare providers will be invited to participate in surveys beginning in January to provide data about the way they prepare, use, and share health information. In addition, consumers and payers will be asked to respond to surveys designed for those participant groups. Also in early 2007, regional focus groups of healthcare providers will be meeting to discuss current practices and policies related to health information exchanges.

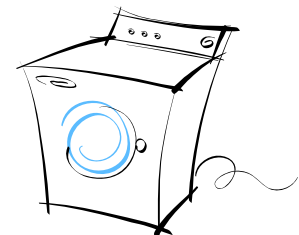
SDEHRA project team members from SDHIMA include Dorine Bennett, Rose Goeden, and Joyce Havlik. The SDHIMA Board members and SDHIMA RHIO Task Force members also contribute valuable input in working on the development of the surveys and plans for the focus group meetings. We encourage you to visit the SDEHRA website at [www.sdehra.org](http://www.sdehra.org) to learn more about the project, watch the “kickoff” conference video, or participate in the surveys as they are posted.



## **Clean Your Filter**

**AHIMA National Convention Summary**  
By Jennifer Gholson, RHIT

Yes, that’s what I said...clean your filter. As in dryer filter.



It's amazing how one insignificant phrase plucked from the opening session speaker's remarks can foreshadow the tone of the entire National Convention. The speaker was referring to how a dryer filter catches all the junk you don't want on your clothes and how not cleaning it periodically can impact how well the dryer functions. She said the same thing exists in life. Everybody has a filter to catch all the negative parts of your life. The key is to clean it periodically so that negativity does not prevent you from doing great things. The first topic from the Convention to which this analogy applies is the inclusive membership vote. The vote is finally over, it passed, and now it's time to move on. The AHIMA leadership recognized that it barely passed and because of that, they have a lot of hard work ahead of them. Make sure you are a part of shaping the answers to the unanswered questions surfacing in this new chapter of AHIMA history.

Secondly, so many of the sessions revolved around e-HIM topics. Speakers included Dr. David Brailer (former national coordinator for HIT), Dr. Bern Shen (Intel), and, of course, Linda Kloss (AHIMA CEO). For me, there are several thoughts in my filter regarding e-HIM:

1. I thought I was done with my education.
2. I've heard bad stories about other EHR implementations; I really don't want to go there.
3. So many at the EHR or HIE tables seem to have forgotten the existence of our profession, so why bother?
4. But I like my paper. It's familiar and I know how to handle it!
5. EHR's and HIE's are a "big city" thing. It'll be a long time before it gets to South Dakota.

Well, just put those thoughts with the dust bunnies and throw them out. E-HIM is here and it's here to stay. It's already alive and well in some parts of South Dakota and well underway in our neighboring states of Colorado, Minnesota, and Wyoming. The good news is AHIMA has a new program in the works for sharing e-HIM successes as well as more educational opportunities to learn about the various aspects of e-HIM. Remember that the challenges of e-HIM are also very exciting. The opening session speaker summed this up nicely by stating, "The more you experience and learn, the more you evolve."

The incoming AHIMA president, Bryon Pickard, confirmed AHIMA's continued support of e-HIM efforts by stating this would be the focus of AHIMA over the next few years. He, too, said we should become proactive, get involved in e-HIM, and to not wait for the invitation. Five key points in his message were:

1. Step up to the plate.
2. Find ways to share your knowledge.
3. Volunteer locally for your CSA or on a national level.
4. Take advantage of the many e-HIM resources available through AHIMA, whether they be Journal articles, audio seminars, or networking on the CoP's.
5. Grow and strengthen AHIMA and CSA's by participating in any way you can.

Not everything at National Convention was about e-HIM. There were some great sessions on coding, regulatory issues, privacy and security, speech recognition, and compliance. The filter I cleaned here was the "I thought I was becoming somewhat of an expert at (select topic)." President Jill Callahan Dennis tried to clean the filter of misconceptions the "city folk" might have about living in the western part of the country with the President's Celebration. Take everything you can possibly think of that's stereotypical of the "west" and mix it with about 1,000 people who have no concept of rodeos, cowboys, etc., and then sit back and watch. There was a mini-rodeo (complete

with mutton busting), gambling, line dancing lessons, cowboys doing rope tricks, and barbecue to eat. Despite how it sounds, it was very fun. The thing that made me laugh the most was riding the shuttle back to the airport post-convention with a couple of ladies from suburban Chicago who thought at first the things on the back of the sheep for the mutton busting were monkeys! Well, we can't all be rodeo aficionados.

So, getting back to that lint filter. Clean it out. Welcome our "new" active members and ask them how they'd like to get involved because they might be the same people that can help you get to the EHR or HIE table. Sit through an e-HIM audio seminar. If you've been a leader in this area already, be sure to share what you've learned. Embrace the future. To paraphrase the opening speaker, remember, success is not what you have; it's what you leave.



## **Triumph Award Winner Educator Award 2006**

**Sheila Carlson, PHD, RHIA, FAHIMA  
By Jennifer Gholson, RHIT**



During the National Convention, the Triumph Awards Winners were announced. Sheila, a former DSU instructor and SDHIMA member, was presented with the 2006 Educator Award. She is currently the program director/associate profession of health services and administration and management at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Sheila is known for developing and implementing creative teaching tools and methods. She sets high expectations for her students and is a role model who takes a personal interest in the students she serves. One role that sets Sheila apart is her participation in the development of a new hospital in Ethiopia. She not only brings supplies, but also assists the founders in developing the hospital's HIM capabilities. At the SDHIMA 2007 Spring Meeting, Sheila is tentatively scheduled to talk about her experiences there.

Congratulations, Sheila!



## **Meeting with Joe Nunez**

**Regional Director, Dept. of Health and Human Services  
By Jennifer Gholson, RHIT**

DeAnne and I had the privilege of meeting with Mr. Nunez, the Regional Director of DHHS. His jurisdiction includes the states of North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Montana. His office is in Denver and when he learned that the AHIMA National Convention would also be in Denver, he asked that a meeting be scheduled with the CSA Presidents and President-Elects from those 6 states to discuss HIE initiatives. He is very much interested in public-private partnerships to get an HIE going between the 6 states.

He stated he has met with each governor and each HHS director in the 6 states to encourage to start taking inventory of the HIE activities going on in their states. He then wishes to start a dialogue between the 6 states for sharing HIT information. His greatest goal, which he knows may not be accomplished in his tenure, is to get a 6-state HIE

going. There will be a series of regional roundtables, one in each state, to present HIT projects so as to learn from each other. Utah seems to be way ahead of the nation in HIE activities, so they will be hosting the first summit. Colorado and Wyoming may be next since they have also started to share health information with Utah. Each roundtable will have 2-3 representatives from each state, which will be appointed by the governor of each state. Others can attend to listen in.

Mr. Nunez is very interested in HIT. There are links to HIT websites off of the HHS website. He has started a listserv for sharing HIT information (DeAnne and I have already gotten a few things). He has asked us to send him information on any HIT conferences going on in our state. If you wish to be added to his listserv, you can contact him at [joe.nunez@hhs.gov](mailto:joe.nunez@hhs.gov).



## Join Us for First Tuesday in February

The Dakota State University Health Information Management Programs encourage you to attend the First Tuesday events sponsored by DSU. First Tuesdays are an informal gathering of Dakota State alumni, friends and instructors. The gatherings take place at Shenanigans in the Empire Mall in Sioux Falls with complementary beverages and snacks from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. We'd be especially pleased to see you at the February 6th event, which we are designating as a Health Information Management get-together! It would be great to see many of you there-- please be sure to spread the word!



## Congratulations Nicole Downs!

Nicole and Chris Downs were They became the proud parents weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 weighed 3 lbs. 15 oz. and was currently serving as the Treasurer



doubly blessed on October 26<sup>th</sup>. of twin boys. Cole Russell inches long and Carter Louis 16.7 inches long. Nicole is for SDHIMA.



## Fall Meeting

**SDAHO Convention – September 20-23, 2006**  
**By DeAnne Kribell, RHIT**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the South Dakota Healthcare Organizations was held September 20-22, 2006 in Sioux Falls. This year's convention showcased several excellent speakers and allowed ample time for the most important part – networking! Wednesday's SDHIMA lineup included the ever-popular Coding Roundtable. Dr. Gary Timmerman graciously agreed to share his expertise with us again this year. His topic this year was esophageal cancer. Christi Swan, RHIT, CCS did a wonderful job of facilitating the coding roundtable discussion. After this, we all attended the general sessions for the afternoon.

Thursday took a financial turn as we shared a session with SFHFMA on revenue compliance and then had speakers from our fiscal intermediary, Cahaba present on Medicare Billing Updates and Medicare Medical Review Updates. At noon we were able to recognize several of our members at the annual Joint Awards Luncheon. In the afternoon, we again joined the other SDAHO members in general sessions.

Friday had a political twist. Matt Michels and Dave Hewett hosted the State Issues forum. Next, both Governor candidates were able to present their views and take questions from the audience. Our closing speaker gave his take on “Laughter is the Best Medicine”. What a great way to end an excellent convention.



## **DSU Update**

**By Dorine Bennett, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA**

They say time flies when you are having fun – well, I’d have to say that the faculty, staff and students at Dakota State University must be having a blast! The time has just flown by with the end of the Fall semester in sight! We are happy to say that enrollment continues to be doing well, with students in a wide range of locations. Our Internet classes help overcome geographic and scheduling barriers to make it more possible to earn a HIM degree or coding certificate.

Our local students involved in the HIM Club are busy with campus and community service activities and are looking forward to the possibility of a trip in the Spring to tour one or more healthcare facilities. Several members were in attendance at the Fall SDHIMA meeting and two students were recognized at the Joint Awards Luncheon for earning the SDHIMA scholarships. Thank you to SDHIMA for your support and encouragement of the students! If you’d like to see more about what the HIM Club has been doing, please visit the website at [www.clubs.dsu.edu/him](http://www.clubs.dsu.edu/him).

We’d also like to thank the health information management professionals who assist the HIM Programs by providing supervised professional practice experiences and speaking to classes. You are a busy bunch of people and your willingness to take the time and effort to help educate the students is really appreciated!

This year we are also fortunate to have Laurie Ness, one of DSU’s alumni, joining our faculty as an adjunct instructor for a couple of classes. Laurie is working in Pipestone, Minnesota at the clinic and hospital. The HIM faculty members have been busy outside of the classroom as well. Dorine Bennett and Rose Goeden participated in the SD TechKnowlogy Summit held in Sioux Falls, where Dorine moderated a Medical IT panel presentation and Rose prepared an educational presentation on health information management for the tradeshow.

Dorine Bennett, Rose Goeden, and Joyce Havlik have started work on a project for the State of South Dakota to assess the status of electronic health records and health information exchange within our state, called South Dakota Electronic Health Record Assessment (SDEHRA). There is more information about SDEHRA in this SDHIMA newsletter and at the SDEHRA website at [www.sdehra.org](http://www.sdehra.org). We hope that many of the

HIM practitioners and other health care providers will participate in the data collection activities coming up in 2007!

We are pleased to congratulate Rose Goeden on completing the American Health Information Management Association's Privacy Specialty Advancement Program. She attended the Privacy Specialty Advancement Institute held in Denver in October preceding the AHIMA Convention, which Joyce Havlik and Rose both attended.

For more information about the Dakota State University Health Information Management Programs, please visit our website at [www.departments.dsu.edu/him](http://www.departments.dsu.edu/him) -- we invite you to read our November 2006 newsletter that is posted there.



## **SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTHCARE INFORMATION LEGAL MANUAL ORDER FORM**

\$60 for SDHIMA Members

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$80 for Non-SDHIMA Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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