



CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF ADVISORS FOR THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SPRING, 2009

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Warm greetings to all members of the CAAHP! I hope you all had a restorative holiday break leaving you inspired to try some new ideas in your spring classes and with your advising responsibilities. To help in that endeavor, please accept my invitation to the 2009 CAAHP Regional Meeting scheduled for April 16-19 in Cincinnati, Ohio!

Our meeting theme is “Building a Strong Foundation for Advising”. The program committee, chaired by Kerry Cheesman, has an exciting program planned, and the meeting will be held at the historic Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel. Please take advantage of the early registration (which ends March 15th) for the meeting. You will find registration, hotel reservation, and preliminary program links at the [CAAHP](#) website.

For those who would not be able to attend without financial assistance, we are offering our popular CAAHP Travel Grants again. You can read about the travel grant guidelines and find an application elsewhere in this newsletter. While the Travel Grants are not designed to pay all costs for an individual, they may help enough so that advisors without sufficient institutional support will be able to attend.

You may have noticed our website underwent a redesign this past fall and has a new, vibrant look. Please explore the website when you register for the meeting! Thanks to Susan Watt of Kansas State University, and her colleague Sarah Silva, who were instrumental in the redesign and did such a great job.

Under the leadership of Heidi Lang of Michigan State University, we are currently working to increase CAAHP membership to 300 members. We’re getting close! If you know of potential members, please call their attention to the benefits of CAAHP and call their attention to our website. You can read Heidi’s notes on our membership drive elsewhere in the newsletter.

One of the initiatives we have been working on at both the regional and national levels is the development of closer ties with our health professional partners to achieve greater communication, and consistency and efficiency in planning the regional meetings. The Regional Presidents and Program Chairs agreed at the NAAHP Advisory Council retreat in January to a set of guidelines for planning our regional meetings. The guidelines include a provision for a liaison from our health professions partners to work with our regional program planning team. We are excited about this initiative and look forward to other areas of cooperation and collaboration with our health professions partners.

Finally, I hope your spring semester goes well, and that you enjoy the warming weather as it develops. Please don’t forget to take advantage of the early bird registration for the Regional meeting—I look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati!

Best regards,

Chuck Hauck

2009 CAAHP REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Come one – come all – to the great Queen City, CINCINNATI. Our CAAHP regional meeting is being held April 16-19 at the fabulous Cincinnati Netherland Hotel (Hilton), right in the heart of the downtown shopping district, surrounded by a wide assortment of restaurants and museums, and overlooking the Ohio River.

The program will start Thursday afternoon with a choice of workshops centering on information for new advisers or on leadership opportunities within CAAHP and NAAHP. A full three days of fabulous speakers, workshops, meals, and exhibitors will center on our theme of “**Building a Strong Foundation for Advising**”. We will spend Friday afternoon at the University of Cincinnati trying out the new MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) format, which is likely coming to a medical or dental school near you very soon. We will also have an opportunity to tour the facilities of the medical and pharmacy schools there.

Come and hear about new changes to the MCAT that are in the works. Find out about new directions and opportunities for each of the health professions that you advise. Join with deans and directors from a wide array of professional schools to learn about what they can offer your students. And join with your colleagues from across the Midwest to share experiences and learn best advising practices.

Make your reservations today! Register [here](#) for the **meeting**, and [here](#) for the **hotel**. Hotel rooms are filling fast, so be sure to do it today! For questions about the conference, contact Kerry Cheesman at kcheesma@capital.edu.

TRAVEL GRANTS

The Board of Directors for CAAHP has set aside \$5,000 for Travel Grants to support members and prospective members to attend the 2009 CAAHP Regional Meeting. This is the third time the board has designated funds to support advisor travel to a regional meeting. Through these grants the board hopes to increase attendance of CAAHP members at this year’s meeting. In addition, the board realizes advisors are feeling the financial impact of shrinking budgets at their respective schools and wanted to offer assistance not only to our members but potential members as well. Therefore, we encourage existing and potential members to apply for a travel grant. Apply now. **The deadline is Thursday, March 12, 2009.** General information about travel grants and a grant application are available on the [CAAHP](#) website. Awards will be announced on Tuesday, March 17, 2009. We look forward to seeing you at the regional meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

When the CAAHP website became more than untrained volunteers could manage effectively, the Board of Directors decided to hire a webmaster. Sarah Silva, Technology Trainer at Kansas State University, agreed to assume responsibility for the site. We think she has done a great job of updating and maintaining the site. Please take a look: [CAAHP](#).

MEMBERSHIP AND MENTORING

A message was recently sent by e-mail to all AAMC Chief Health Professions Advisors in our region introducing NAAHP/CAAHP. It included an invitation to join our group and/or to contact the membership chair for more information. Special thanks go to AAMC and Jayme Bograd for helping us reach these fellow advisors who may not know about our organizations.

All past members who let their membership expire in 2008 have been contacted and invited back to membership and/or to let us know why they have not renewed their membership. Many simply forgot and others have moved on to new positions.

New members will have the opportunity to sign up for an experienced MENTOR ADVISOR at the regional meeting in Cincinnati. Mentors make themselves available to touch base with their mentee via phone or e-mail on a somewhat regular basis to provide guidance and to answer questions. This is especially helpful for advisors who do not have other pre-professional advisors on their campuses. **Current members of CAAHP who are interested in serving as a mentor please contact Heidi Lang (langhe@msu.edu) by March 27th** to let her know of your interest in serving. Heidi will try to match mentors and mentees at the regional meeting. It would be wonderful to have those interested in being a mentor at the meeting in Cincinnati, but it is not a requirement.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The terms of two current Members-At-Large of the Board of Directors (BOD) expire this year: Suzette Combs and Susan Watt. The Nominating Committee will submit to the BOD one or more nominations for each vacancy. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the annual business meeting. Elections are made from the list of nominees by ballot at the regional meeting by voting members in attendance. Write-in nominations may be made for Members-At-Large. An important goal of the Nomination Committee is to make nominations that allow for equity in representation on the BOD regarding geography and institutional size.

There are six Members-At-Large on the BOD. The term of office is three years. Terms are staggered so only one-third of the Members-At-Large are elected in any one year. Members of the BOD are expected to attend at least two board meetings each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. The spring meeting occurs immediately following the annual business meeting, which is held in conjunction with the CAAHP Regional Conference (in odd years) and the NAAHP National Conference (in even years). Expenses for travel, lodging and meals to BOD meetings are paid by CAAHP, except for those incurred for meetings held in conjunction with regional and national meetings. Members of the BOD serve on board committees and participate in occasional BOD conference calls.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please don't be shy! Contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee to express your interest and willingness to serve this great organization. If you would like to nominate someone you think would be an asset to the Board, you are encouraged to do so. **The deadline for submitting names to the Nominating Committee is March 16, 2009.** Nominees will be asked later to provide the Nominating Committee with a brief statement regarding their motivation for serving on the CAAHP BOD and their health professions advising experience. Members of the CAAHP Nominating Committee are:

Alice Sima (asima@ben.edu)
Larry Sullivan (larry.sullivan@avila.edu);
Chuck Hauck (charles-hauck@uiowa.edu)
Mariella Mecozzi (mmecozzi@umich.edu)
Judy Baxter (baxter@uic.edu)

FR. JOSEPH I. WALTER AWARD

Nomination for the Fr. Joseph I Walter Award for Outstanding Advising is open to all members of the CAAHP. If you have someone in mind (including yourself!) who you believe is deserving of this special honor, please submit that name to **Jim Foster** foster.34@nd.edu by **March 2nd, 2009**.

The selection of the recipient of the Fr. Joseph L. Walter Award is based on several criteria. Among them are:

- 1) the creation and development of advising tools (web pages, books, bulletins, handouts, etc.) that are now used by other advisors;
- 2) the sharing of best practices with the advising community;
- 3) the publication of advising articles in *The Advisor* or other journals;
- 4) outstanding research in the area of advising;
- 5) presentations given at national or central meetings of the Association or at other professional conferences;
- 6) mentorship of new advisors;
- 7) the receipt of external funds for new advising projects;
- 8) the creation of external partnerships; and
- 9) letters of recommendation from peers, students, and supervisors.

WEBSITES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Paul Crosby, Pre-health Advisor from the University of Kansas, offered these websites at the Statewide Premedical Student Conference, February 7th, sponsored by the Kansas University School of Medicine.

- ✓ [VolunteerMatch](#): "VolunteerMatch is a leader in the nonprofit world dedicated to helping everyone find a great place to volunteer."
- ✓ [CampResource.com](#): An online camp directory. This link is for the special needs camps section of the website.

Gail Robinson, Pre-health Advisor from Southern Illinois University, recommends:

- ✓ [WinkingSkull.com](#): "Thieme Publishers launched WinkingSkull.com in January of 2008. From Boston to Berlin to Beijing, WinkingSkull.com is rapidly becoming a global phenomenon as interest grows from around the world. This website is a free, interactive resource for medical students and people interested in science."
- ✓ [SMDEP](#): "**Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)** is a **FREE** (full tuition, housing, and meals) six-week summer academic enrichment program that offers freshman and sophomore college students intensive and personalized medical and dental school preparation." Registration for this program is now open.