

President's Message

Greetings,



Remember a time in college health when life seemed more simple and less stressful? Wasn't there a time when we would busy ourselves with the college cycle of orientation, semester's start, the waxing and waning of stresses that mirrored the academic calendar, breaks for holidays, then the inevitable push ending-briefly-with commencement?

We know how to roll with the flow. We know the first coughers and sneezers will be followed by more. In college health, we used to be good at predicting when we'd get home late because the schedule was too full. We've always had to have flexibility in our work, adapting to new styles, new drugs, and new infections. But doesn't this year just seem to be some sort of record-breaker?

We still, however, need to approach our work openmindedly as we try to provide physical and emotion care and support. We've needed to tap into our "passion" (to use Ralph Manchester's phrase) and combine it with a need for weekly-if not daily-updates about the ways the world reaches in and effects even the smallest and most rural of settings.

What should we do today-catch up on the latest HIPAA information? How about checking to see whether the smallpox vaccination program is still on hold, or up and running (and do I really want to get that vaccine?). Do you have to add SARS to your differential for that patient who went to a restaurant in Toronto last weekend that you just diagnosed with pneumonia yesterday?

As odd as it seems, there is familiarity, and perhaps comfort, when we deal with the student with a high BAC who slept it off in the ER Sunday morning. The past year has seemed as though we're always in the reactive mode, wondering as we pull into the parking lot or answer a page saying almost fearfully-"what next".

Then an incident comes along and I see a ray of hope There were several students in a car wreck recently. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured although the accident could have easily ended up with multiple fatalities. The details don't matter, as the circumstances were similar to those you've dealt with on your own campuses.

A major component of the psychological first-aid kit we all have to carry is the need to just listen to what we're hearing. One of the passengers said that upon reflecting, he realized for the first time,

how important his own judgment about a dangerous situation needed to be, and at the same time, the powerful force of peer pressure. For some, there has to be a crisis of this sort before a lesson can be learned. We don't want that to be case, but we know that our outreach, our counseling, and all our other efforts pale sometimes, when compared to experiences beyond the classroom and exam room.

In many ways, the key to our own survival is the ability to be reactive *and* proactive and to know when we need to listen. How often do we approach something we do, form or survey in hand, expecting that they are tools that will get us closer to the point where we can intervene or otherwise provide real help to someone in need?

We can become overwhelmed, just like so many of our students seem right about now. Or we can pause, listen, and realize that although the world has indeed changed in many ways, students still bring with them many of the same kinds of anxiety and stress that we're trained to recognize and help.

NECHA has been able to meet requests from many of you about programming and other kinds of support over the academic year. Special thanks to Chad Henderson, Deb Bronson, Lynn Wachtel, and Cindy Lubianez who recently gave us tremendous help with a program (and CD-ROM!) on the ins and outs of HIPAA compliance.

Many of us will gather in Miami the end of the month for the ACHA National Meeting. I look forward to seeing many of you there. It's then onto the fall as we gather with our New York friends for the Region V Combined Annual Meeting. We'll learn even more in Saratoga and get our batteries recharged even further! For the complete Combined Annual Meeting update, see page 3 of the newsletter and check out www.nechaonline.com throughout the summer.

Good luck to everyone as you close out the '02-'03 academic year, plan and prepare for '03-'04. It has been a long winter. Enjoy these next few months, especially if you're able to get away-alone, with friends or family.

Peter Nobes, PA
NECHA President
Primary Care Clinician
University of Vermont

Meet the Board

Anne H. Cole, RN, MA



Editors Note:

Please join us in welcoming Anne Cole to the NECHA Board Class of 2003. Anne is Director of Health Services at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Fairfield is a comprehensive Jesuit university that

prepares students for lives of leadership and service in a constantly changing world. Fairfield offers its 3100 full-time undergraduates, 1000 graduate students, and 1000 continuing education students a well-rounded education distinguished by real-world opportunities within and beyond the classroom.

The following, in her own words, is Anne's story:

I am so pleased to be a new member of the NECHA Board. I have been a dedicated attendee at NECHA Annual Meetings, gave a presentation at CT-02 last year, and now am on the board. Persistence does pay off!

I began my career in college health fifteen years ago when I was hired as "supervisor of nurses" at Fairfield University. Over the years the job description has changed, I received my masters in counseling, and I was named "Director of Health Services."

My nursing career began at Mass General Hospital after graduating from the University of Maryland School of Nursing. As fate would have it, I met Rita Sheppard there (formerly director at Framingham State, now APRN at Babson, and former NECHA board member) and we began a friendship that has endured all these years. After leaving MGH, I held jobs in public health, research, visiting nurse, and occupational health. I had two children and moved to Connecticut in 1981 from Pennsylvania.

My position has been exciting and challenging as Fairfield maintains a 24-hour operation. I am privileged to have an outstanding staff of dedicated professionals to meet the many challenges presented to us.

I am also privileged to be a member of the NECHA Board of Directors among so many outstanding professionals and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Awards Nominations Deadline Extended to Monday, June 2

Nominations for the 2003-2004 NECHA President's and Louise Gazzara Awards have been extended to Monday, June 2. For a nomination application, contact Nomination Chair, Chad Henderson.

The Awards Committee will meet over the summer and recipients will be chosen in the early fall. Both recipients will have their registration fee waived for NECHA's 2004 Annual Meeting in Portsmouth! For more information, click on 'Awards' at www.nechaonline.com.

Help Shape the Future of College Health

Become a member of the NECHA Board of Directors and help shape the future of college health in New England! The NECHA Board's role is to work with ACHA, serve as a resource for other NECHA members, and provide leadership for our organization.

If you can recommend someone who may serve the Association well – or if you would like to explore the possibility yourself, please contact Chad Henderson by Friday, June 6.

Rhode Island College Director, Lynn Wachtel Chosen for ACHA's New Professional Award



Lynn Wachtel, MS, RNP

Lynn Wachtel, MS, RNP, Director of Health Services at Rhode Island College in Providence, was recently chosen to receive ACHA's New Professional Award. ACHA will honor Lynn and other award winners at a special dinner at their Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 29. Congratulations Lynn!

Editors Note: In the short time that Lynn has been involved in college health, she has touched the lives of many beyond RIC, around Little Rhody, and most recently as a co-presenter at the NECHA '03 Spring Summit. Nomination letters came from veteran NECHA members including Karen O'Brien from RISD, Betty Cotter (Bryant College), Salve Regina University's Mary Kay Connell, as well as a lovely letter from her staff.

The following is Lynn's citation, which can also be read on www.nechaonline.com.

As an independent practitioner and director, you have transformed the Health Services at Rhode Island College into a holistic environment delighting students, staff, and administration. Your varied background in health care prepared you for the challenges of college health. Your enthusiasm and dedication have been infectious as you set about to improve the quality and quantity of health care offered in the college community.

The transformation has included active staff participation in enhancing services through development and implementation of a women's health program, a sexually transmitted infection testing program, pre-employment physical examination program, a low cost immunization program, and initiation of a laboratory and ambulance services for the campus. You have actively partnered with colleagues to provide psychotropic medications with the Counseling Center, nutrition analysis and support for eating disordered students, and a smoking cessation program as you move to a smoke-free campus.

Your creative ability fostered a grant from the Rhode Island Cancer Council that includes free patches for participants in the program. Your business acumen resulted in improved health insurance coverage at reduced cost as you advocated for the students in negotiations with the insurance company. Most noteworthy is your ability to research both clinical and administrative matters and develop workable clinical guidelines, processes, and procedures that allow staff to function effectively while complying with standards.

Your quiet dignity, warmth, wit, caring, and compassion for your patients and your staff have been shared with the Tri-State College Health Consortium and colleagues throughout New England. The American College Health Association joins the New England College Health Association in naming you their Affiliate New Professional Award winner for 2003.



**New York State & New England
College Health Associations
2003 Combined Annual Meeting Update**
Many Perspectives – Shared Vision

The planning for the 2003 Combined Annual Meeting continues to go well. The Meeting promises to be an excellent one. We have received several program proposals from all disciplines in college health, so there will be programs that appeal to every attendee. I am especially pleased with the response to the Call for Programs from NECHA members. I appreciate your support and interest in the Combined Meeting. The NECHA representative on the Planning Committee, Carole Worsh, has also been very helpful in the planning process. She has a wealth of ideas and contacts and has recommended several speakers and topics.

Our keynote speaker is Sidney Hurlbert, one of our most popular keynote speakers in past years. Some of you may have had the pleasure to hear him speak at past Combined Meetings. Carole suggested we invite him this year and we are pleased that Sid was available. For those of you who do not know Sid, I am sure you will enjoy hearing him speak. His keynote talk, *What to Say and How to Say It*, will provide us all with sound recommendations for improving service to our customers. I have no doubt that Sid will deliver on his promise to provide a “motivational, battery charging seminar that will have you smiling and enjoying your work more.” We have asked Sid to present a second program during the concurrent sessions on Wednesday afternoon.

If you have a program idea that you would like to submit, you can still do so. You can go to the NYSCHA Web site (www.nyscha.org) to find the submission forms. Rather than complete the Call for Programs, it would be better to go right to the Program Information Form, the Presenter Information Form, and the Faculty Disclosure – the three forms that are needed for the continuing education application. The forms should be sent to me: Linda Dudman, Conference Planner, at ldudman@uhs.rochester.edu. If you prefer, you can contact me to discuss your program idea before submitting the forms.

The 2003 Combined Meeting will open at lunchtime on Wednesday, October 29 and the keynote presentation will follow. After the keynote, we will have a break with the exhibitors. A set of concurrent sessions is scheduled after the break, with the annual banquet completing the first day’s programming.

Thursday will begin with NYSCHA and NECHA business meetings (held separately) during breakfast. Two sets of concurrent sessions are scheduled in the morning and two sets in the afternoon. During lunch, there will be the opportunity for attendees to meet with others from their discipline. Dinner on Thursday evening is on your own. We will provide information about restaurants in the area.

On Friday, we have scheduled a general session during breakfast. Two sets of concurrent sessions will complete the programming on Friday morning and the Meeting will end at 12:30. We are exploring the possibility of offering one or two post-conference workshops on Friday afternoon. There will not be an additional fee for people who want to attend post-conference workshops.

This year’s Meeting will be held at the Prime Hotel & Conference Center, formerly the Sheraton Hotel, in Saratoga Springs. This hotel is conveniently located on one of the main streets of Saratoga Springs. We have scheduled a longer break on Thursday afternoon to provide attendees with the opportunity to take a walk around town, if they would like.

Several exhibitors have already reserved their space for the Meeting and we hope to have 20-25 exhibitors in attendance. This year, we are asking the exhibitors to be at the Meeting all three days. Several have already expressed an interest in doing so. If you know anyone who is interested in being an exhibitor at the NYSCHA-NECHA Annual Meeting, please let them know they can find the necessary forms on the NYSCHA Web site.

Registration for the full meeting is \$250 for members and \$300 for non-members if received by **October 8, 2003**. The rates increase by \$30 for registrations received after the deadline.

Attendees from New England must be individual members of ACHA or their college must be an affiliate institutional member of NECHA (AIM) by September 1 of this year. NYSCHA attendees must be members of NYSCHA by July 31 to receive member rates.

The registration fee includes lunch and dinner on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday, and breakfast on Friday, as well as breaks each day.

We have designated the second half of the Meeting for student programming and are waiving the registration fee for all students who attend the student portion (Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, and post-conference workshop). The registration fee for students who attend the full meeting is \$30 if paid by the **October 8** deadline and \$45 if paid after the deadline. If you or your students would like to submit a proposal for a program to be offered during the student programming portion of the Meeting, please contact me.

The early registration form will be mailed in May and will also be available on the NYSCHA Web site. The program schedule, registration fees, hotel information, deadlines, and a list of confirmed programs will be included on the early registration form.

We hope to see you in Saratoga!

*Linda Dudman
Conference Planner
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Connecticut

Michael Kurland, MSPH

SARS Comes Home to Connecticut? As many of you, I had been following the weekly updates from CDC and the Public Health Department about SARS. It seemed so far and distant...until... that dreaded call. On Wednesday, March 12, I

received a call from a local physician, Dr. Ken Dardick (who is also the Chief of Staff at our local hospital, medical consultant to the local health district, and has expertise in travel medicine), that he had just admitted a UCONN student to the hospital with a possible diagnosis of SARS. The young man had been on a plane from New York to Germany (on Singapore Airlines) and reportedly had been in close proximity to a fellow passenger who supposedly subsequently died of SARS. Upon his return to campus, he developed a fever, cough and significant respiratory problems. He was immediately placed in an isolation room at the hospital and appropriate precautions were taken. The Department of Public Health and local health district were notified.

We were told later in the afternoon not to inform the general public. Within two hours, subsequent to a conversation between DPH and the CDC, our entire game plan changed dramatically. We had several lengthy phone calls that evening involving our university president, the Commissioner of Health, state epidemiologist, etc. It was decided that we must spring in to action by notifying all possible contacts of this individual. He had been on campus and symptomatic for two days. We jointly developed our plan of action and protocols and by 8 AM Thursday morning, a team consisting of a CDC representative, DPH representative and me attended each of the classes that our suspect case had attended. E-mails were sent to all "close casual contacts" as well as the general community. Probably our biggest challenge was deciding risk factors-who should be quarantined, how, and for how long.

We were fortunate. While we assessed and monitored many students, there was no apparent transmission. Within 10 days, the campus was "off alert". The student was home from the hospital within 3 days, quarantined at home for 10 more days, and returned to school.

Now is the real challenge. What do we do to protect the rest of the campus from other travelers who might have been exposed to SARS? Many campuses face this identical concern. A number of us have communicated via e-mail and telephone and have exchanged ideas. I'm sure this will be a hot topic of discussion at the ACHA Meeting in Miami. Stay tuned for further details!

Congratulations
to Michael Kurland, who recently assumed the Chair of the ACHA Administration Section for the 2004 Meeting in New Orleans - another long-time NECHA Board member gone national!

Maine

Jeff Benson, MD, MPH

Maine College Health has launched its new Web site: www.mainecollegehealthassociation.com. It includes information about the organization, membership benefits and costs, and an on-line application form. The site offers Web-links to ACHA, NECHA, and the health services of each member institution, as well as email-links to members of the MCHA Board. The Web site was put together by incoming MCHA President Susan Martin and features truly beautiful graphics and design. Thank you Susan!

Maine College Health's Spring Conference was held at Colby College on April 25. The theme of the conference was *Psychological Challenges on College Campuses: Problems and Solutions for Health Care Providers*. Individual sessions covered depression, psychopharmacology, managing psychiatric LOAs, and interdisciplinary collaboration around mental health issues. Attendees from the health services, counseling services, and offices of the Dean of Students from campuses across the state convened at Colby. Lively discussions were held around the many issues we commonly face-and some very creative problem-solving took place!

Massachusetts

Carole Worsh, RN-CS, ANP

Lots of personnel changes around Massachusetts this year and some new faces joining CHAND! The College Health Association of

Nurse Directors welcomes Linda Oates, Director of Nursing Services at Fisher College in Boston. Linda joined Fisher in September 2002, following the retirement of Roberta Lecke. A graduate of the diploma program at Grace-New Haven Hospital, she went on to obtain a BSN from Rutgers and a MPH from BU School of Public Health.

Linda had previously worked at the MIT Health Services, as a Planned Parenthood county supervisor in New Jersey, and triage nurse at the Faulkner Headache Centre. After the HA Centre closed, she was a case manager at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital for almost 6 years.

Her professional interests include headaches, women's health issues, and depression in the peri-adolescent.

CHAND also welcomes Nancy Rund, Health Services Coordinator at Salem State College. A Family Nurse Practitioner with an extensive nursing career in a variety of settings, Nancy came to Salem State in the fall of 2002. She earned her Diploma in Nursing at the Faulkner Hospital School of Nursing in 1977 and her BS/MS and Nurse Practitioner certification from Northeastern University in 1999.

Her professional interests focus on women and adolescent health including sexual health, contraception, sexual assault, depression, and tobacco cessation. Her philosophy of nursing care incorporates education and support for positive health choices in the lives of young adults.

Her personal interests include music, gardening, interior design, travel, and time with family and friends.

New Hampshire

Charley Bradley, RNC

On February 9, Dartmouth College Health Services received an award from Screening Mental Health Inc., for conducting a successful 2002 National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) program. The award acknowledged Dartmouth for its valuable leadership in conducting NASD. In four hours, Dartmouth's Health Services employees screened and provided brief consultation for 200 students.

Bryant Ford, PhD, Coordinator of Dartmouth's NASD program accepted the award at

(continued on pg. 6)



Meet You in Miami!

What can you get passionate about after another long cold winter? How about sunny skies, a warm ocean and five days of exciting programs with colleagues from all over the United States? Think Miami Beach and ACHA 2003.



We hope many of you will be heading to Miami Beach May 27 - 31 to take part in ACHA's Annual Meeting. Those of us who have been on the Program Planning Committee know you are in for an incredible experience. The pool of possible presentations reached nearly 200 and it was no easy task to choose the final 130 sessions.

It is particularly rewarding that professionals from at least four NECHA Affiliated schools are have had programs accepted.

Of particular interest to some may be a new *Foundations of Leadership* workshop being held on Tuesday, May 27 from 1:30-5:00pm. This workshop is designed to provide current, emerging, and potential ACHA leaders the oppor-

tunity to enhance their knowledge and skills essential for effective leadership in college health. Speaking as a past-president of NECHA, this workshop could be useful for members interested in future leadership positions on the regional level as well.

Please also plan to join your NECHA colleagues on Thursday at noon for an Affiliate Lunch Meeting. Details to come at the Meeting.

Miami Beach and the Fountainbleu will be a great place for our meeting - perfect for attending sessions, networking with colleagues, and walking the boardwalk. While I know you'll spend time with the first two - save some time to soak up the sun as well. And yes, don't forget to pack the sunscreen!

*Donna Denelli-Hess, MSPH, MA
NECHA Secretary & ACHA '03 Health Education Program Chair
Director of Health Education
Williams College Health Center*

NECHA Spring Summit Recap

In late March, AIM NECHA members made great strides in their understanding of the basic requirements and intent of HIPAA, along with privacy and security issues involved with PHI. The Northampton location provided a wonderful, springtime setting for the Spring Summit on Friday, March 28 with representation from over 50 colleges and universities.

Thanks to the efforts of Chad Henderson and his staff at URI, a CD-Rom containing sample documents and training programs was produced and distributed to attendees. For those of you unable to attend, you can download the information at www.nechaonline.com.



Spring Summit Presenters Deb, Chad, Lynn, and Cindy



Instead of saying 'cheese', those posing for the camera were asked to say, 'HIPAA can be fun!'

Kudos to Spring Summit presenters Deb Bronson (UNH), Lynn Wachtel (RIC), Cindy Lubianez (BC), and Chad Henderson (URI) for their expertise, time and effort in paving the road for so many of us. One attendee said

it best, 'CD will be invaluable. Plain English, excellent progression; one of the best programs I've attended this year!'

And last but not least, our thanks to The Chickering Group, Koster Insurance Company, and University Health Plans for their sponsorship of the NECHA Spring Summit. Their continued support is a testament to their commitment to college health in New England!

Summit Update from Deb Bronson:

Sound machines are available at JC Penney. They are called Sleep Mate Conditioners and the cost is about \$50 each or you can purchase them via their catalog at

1-800-222-6161.

Across The States, cont...

a recent NASD training session in Boston. During the awards presentation, Dr. Ford was asked to make a few comments about the success the college has had with its program.

Dr. Ford attributed Dartmouth's success to the location of the event, collaborations with various campus departments, and partnerships with student organizations. The event was held in the student center, a place chosen for its high volume of student traffic. This decision proved to be very effective. Collaboration with departments within Health Services was also important to the success of Dartmouth's NASD program.

Clinicians, nurses, and health educators from the Counseling and Human Development Center, Primary Care/Preventive Medicine, Nursing Department, and Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs worked to provide consultation to NASD participants. The offices involved were also responsible for coordinating traffic during the event and disseminating literature to all participants.

Health Services also partnered with offices across campus including Residential Life, Greek Affairs, and The Dean's Office to promote NASD. These partnerships were critical to the publicity and recruitment of students for the event. Additionally, Dartmouth took this opportunity to publicize and promote the campus' social norms campaign. Literature and prizes were used to educate students about the misperceptions of alcohol use on campus. For Dartmouth's efforts they recorded the second largest screening total for colleges in New England and registered eleventh nationally.

Dartmouth will conduct its 2003 NASD on May 7 in the student center. The event will again include collaborations within Health Services and partnerships with offices across campus, and include co-sponsorships with various student organizations.

Rhode Island

Chad Henderson, MBA

It has been an interesting spring in Little Rhody. First, The Station nightclub fire that claimed ninety-nine lives, a case of meningitis at Providence College, and then one here at the University of Rhode Island. I am happy to report that both meningitis cases have had good outcomes due to prompt treatment. Determining contacts, providing information to the campus community, and maintaining a calm environment is certainly an opportunity

to display the best we have to offer in college health.

Karen O'Brien at Rhode Island School of Design is looking to hire a registered nurse to work 35 hours per week for 45 weeks a year. The position includes medical benefits. For more information contact Karen at kobrien@risd.edu.

The Tri-State College Health Consortium continues to meet monthly and is currently sharing policy and procedure manuals and forms.

We at URI are losing two long-term staff members. John Rivers, our Principle Clinical Laboratory Scientist, is retiring after 33 years of service and Barbara MacDonald, our Senior X-Ray Technologist, is departing after 30 years. We wish them both many years of well-earned retirement.

Jane Anderson joins us as the Senior X-Ray Technologist bringing years of valuable experience and enthusiasm to the staff. Two other key positions have been filled. Betty Murray joins us as the Medical Records Supervisor. Betty comes to us from the College of Nursing. She holds a bachelor's degree from URI and has extensive experience with hospital medical records. She volunteers as an advocate for domestic violence and a facilitator with a children's grief group. Ellen Reynolds is the new Associate Director. She holds a masters degree from Salve Regina University, a bachelor's degree from URI and comes to us from South County Hospital, where she was Manager of the Continuing Care Department. We welcome these fine members to our staff and college health.

On a personal note I want to thank Cindy Lubianez from Boston College, Lynn Wachtel from Rhode Island College and particularly, Deb Bronson from the University of New Hampshire for their outstanding contributions to the success of the NECHA Spring Summit.

This just in - We just learned that a member of our staff, Cynthia D. Kirwan-Yemma has completed the requirements to become a "Certified Professional Coder" (CPC) ... this involved significant study, preparation, and passing a tough national exam ... we want to say "Cindy you are the best!"

Vermont

Peter Nobes, PA

UVMers continue to stay tuned into plans for the future (new President Dan Fogel just inaugurated) while trying hard to keep up with campus and world events. Part of the President's vision includes a goal of adding 2,500 more undergraduates over the next ten years, resulting undoubtedly in necessary growth of student support services. A new health center and its funding await the completion of a campus master plan and exploration of funding sources. In the meantime, AAAHC comes to town for a site visit that will be the first since UVM's original accreditation three years ago.

Vermont has traditionally placed a great deal of importance in oversight of health care dollars, and the Fletcher Allen Health Care "Renaissance Project" (Vermont's answer to Boston's "Big Dig") has strained the trust of many in the community. As the hospital renovation cost projections approach \$400 million, a recent report submitted to regulators listed all the reasons why the construction should proceed. The hospital's board of trustees and CEO have departed and we all proceed with the knowledge that although UVM's future health building plans are separate from Fletcher Allen Health Care, plans and expenditures will be carefully scrutinized.

Down Route 7, Kathleen Ready reports that Middlebury College officials have designated an existing campus building to be the new site of the Parton Health Center, but that remodeling is going more slowly than planned.

If there was ever a time for a strong working relationship with the Public Health sector, its now, as late-breaking news regularly reaches our state campuses via our State Health Department. With regard to implementing the goal of immunizing a core group of health care providers for smallpox, the program has gotten off to a slow start, then a hiatus, and now a restart under new guidelines. Colleges health services seem to be taking a "wait and see" approach regarding staff vaccinations.

It's Official - Mark your calendars for November 3-5, 2004!
The New England College Health Association's 2004 Annual Meeting will take place at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth. We are delighted to return to our 1996 location with a 'family friendly' Wednesday - Friday meeting pattern.



American College Health Association

ACHA Region V Representative Report

Seems the more involved I become in the workings of the ACHA Board of Directors, the more I am impressed by the difficult decisions that face an organization whose existence revolves around serving the best interests of its members. One thing facing ACHA, as it has all of us, is financial uncertainty. We may see costs to us as institutional and individual members increase in the years ahead. As much as we may want to react, please stop and remember that ACHA is no different than any other organization. I am convinced that all actions are taken in the best interest of college health and the continuation of a leadership body for all of us.

One example of ACHA staying power is the recent reversal of the 2001 decision to discontinue continuing education benefits to institutional members. It was understood that to reinstate this benefit would bring a fee directly related to the actual cost of the CE approval process to ACHA. The fee structure for institutions will mirror those charged to affiliates as follows:

Application fee:

\$10 per credit approved for CEs in each discipline
Example: 10 Contact hours and 5 CMEs:
 $10 + 5 = 15 \times 10 = \150

Individual CE fee:

Fees are per attendee collecting CEU credits*
\$25 per individual ACHA member
\$50 per non-ACHA member

*There is no fee for simply attending sessions

Example: 4 ACHA members
 $\$25 \times 4 = \100

8 non-members of ACHA
 $\$50 \times 8 = \400

Total: \$500

For those of us who have become comfortable with the former "free" CE system, the amount is an eye-opener since this amount will simply offset the CE cost to ACHA. I've learned through personal searching that the alternatives could be more costly and would not cover both Contact Hours and CMEs. The fees above seem fair in that they are proportionate to the size of both the program and the audience. More information is available on the ACHA Web site.

Obviously the issue of budget came up on more than one occasion during our Board meeting in Baltimore this past February. We did talk about lighter issues as well, and the 2003 Annual Meeting, *A Passion for College Health*, was at the top of the list. Some innovative changes in place are intended to enhance the attendee's experience.

To facilitate attendance at Section meetings, these will appear on the schedule immediately following the Opening Address on Wednesday (5/28) and the Fellows and Awards gathering will be a Dinner, rather than a luncheon, allowing a less rushed format. Bound to be most popular is the fact that breaks between sessions have been extended from 15 to 30 minutes!

I hope to see many of you in Miami as Region V's own Ralph Manchester, ACHA President, will preside over the 2003 Annual Meeting. Until then, enjoy the semester winding down and finally, the chance to relax a little. Take care.

*Kathy MacLachlan, MS, ANP
ACHA Region V Rep (02-04)
Syracuse University Health Center*

Submissions Welcome!

Deadline for the NECHA fall newsletter is Friday, August 4.

For more information contact Julie Basol, NECHA Administrator at jnb@gmavt.net

AN OPEN LETTER TO NECHA

Dear NECHA Members,

I want to take this opportunity to give thanks for the wonderful experience that I have had working with all of you through the New England College Health Association. It was truly amazing getting to know so many dedicated college health professionals.

One person who I would like to recognize in particular is Anna Maria's Student Health Director, Sandy Stern. I became involved in college health at the regional and national levels because of Sandy. She encouraged me to attend conferences and training sessions and to take on the role of student representative. She is an inspiration to all of the people that her life touches. Sandy, I thank you.

I have been the NECHA Student Representative for the past couple of years. In this time I attempted to bring a student voice back into New England College Health, tried to encourage other schools to involve their students in both regional and national college health, and endeavored to increase student numbers in NECHA. I hope I helped many of you begin to contemplate the role of college students in college health.

I will be graduating from Anna Maria College in December of 2003, thus ending my term as Student Representative. I hope those of you reading this take the opportunity to get your students involved at the regional level. It will raise the representation of your school at the regional level, and give another student an incredible experience like my own.

Thank You,

Amanda Fitzpatrick

2002 - 2003 NECHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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