New degrees are approved – The College of Health Professions is expanding our degree offerings over the next year and a half. On Friday, October 25, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved our request to add two new degree programs. The first is a new Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Administration, offered through the Department of Health Information Management. The new degree builds on our current associate degree program which will be re-named Associate of Science in Health Information Technology. Graduates of the program will be prepared to collect, maintain and manage health care data; manage patient health information systems; and assume a wide variety of information roles such as trainer, project manager, coding specialist, quality analyst, and privacy and security officer. As health care facilities are required to begin using electronic health record systems, graduates of the Health Information Administration program will be in increasingly greater demand. Congratulations to Kathy Trawick, chair of Health Information Management, and the faculty and staff of the department on the approval.

The second new program approved by the Coordinating Board is our Doctor of Physical Therapy program, which will be located at the UAMS Northwest campus in Fayetteville. The program will be a three-year post-bachelor’s clinical degree. A generous donor has already pledged $1 million for start-up costs, and other philanthropic gifts will be solicited to get the program off to a good start. We plan for the first class to start in summer or fall of 2015. The Coordinating Board also approved the creation of our newest department, the Department of Physical Therapy.

Don’t miss Allied Health Professions Week activities – We are hosting several activities for Allied Health Professions Week, November 3-9, so be sure to mark your calendar. We start the week with Donuts with the Dean in Administration West Lobby on Tuesday. Then, on Wednesday, Danny Bercher, past chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, will present a Lunch and Learn on Boyer’s model of scholarship and its implications for faculty members’ roles. Thursday is a big day with two major events – the Dean’s Society Gathering and the annual Scholarship Reception. Check out the details under Timely Matters.

Timely Matters

November 3-9 – Allied Health Professions Week Events

Tuesday (November 5), 7:00-9:00 – Donuts with the Dean, 7:30-9:30, Administration West Building Lobby. Students, faculty, staff, and friends invited to join the dean for donuts, nutritional breakfast snacks, juice, and coffee.

Wednesday (November 6), 12:00-1:00 – Lunch and Learn, location announced later, “Boyer’s Model of Scholarship,” presented by Danny Bercher (Emergency Health Sciences), past chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Thursday (November 7), 3:30-5:00 – Dean’s Society Gathering and Reception, Reynolds Institute on Aging, Room 1180/1190. Learn about research, education and service-learning projects funded by the Dean’s Society. RSVP to TaylorDeborahC@uams.edu.

Thursday (November 7), 5:00-6:00 – Scholarship Reception, Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium, Reynolds Institute on Aging. Students, faculty, and staff invited to honor generous donors and scholarship recipients. RSVP to TaylorDeborahC@uams.edu.

is produced by the Office of the Dean of the College of Health Professions for faculty and staff members of the college. Submit FYI items to Deborah Taylor at TaylorDeborahC@uams.edu.