

NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to the RCAA's 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award Winner Melissa Alvarez, Med, RRT

Melissa was nominated and selected to receive this award based on her contributions to the field of respiratory therapy in San Antonio as a member of the transport team at University Hospital and for her continued commitment to the UTHSCSA Department of Respiratory Care as a clinical preceptor and adjunct faculty member.

The RCAA would like to thank the following sponsors who graciously donated items for the raffle conducted at the 16th annual Respiratory Care Symposium. All proceeds were committed to helping establish the RCAA Scholarship Endowment

Home Care Dimensions

Lisa Jackson, Walgreens Home Health

ResMed

Jones and Bartlett Publishing

Semeneya Dance Studio

NECA

Welcome New Members

Melissa Alvarez

Lori Craft

Paul Nerio

Do you have a personal success story? Would you like to be featured in an "Alumni Spotlight" segment in the School of Health Professions Alumni Newsletter? Whether you are an RCAA member or not, submit your story to RCAA@uthscsa.edu today.

RCAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Heather DiGiovanni, BSRC, RRT

President

Class of 2008

Lina Gamez, BSRC, RRT

Vice-President

Class of 2008

Jana Alsobrook, BSRC, RRT-NPS, AE-C

Secretary/Treasurer

Class of 2004

Leo Wittnebel, MSIS, RRT

Faculty Advisor

Class of 2005

Helen Sorenson, MA, RRT, FAARC

Faculty Advisor



The RCAA would like to extend congratulations to the class of 2011 on their upcoming graduation. We look forward to having you as members!

Department News

-Lots of news and congratulations for soon-to-be-alumni from the class of 2011:

-RC made quite a showing at the recent UTHSCSA student award ceremony. Sade Adepojou received the Professional Student Leadership Award and the Peer Advisor of the Year Award. Margarita Camero received the Student Clinical Excellence Award, and a few weeks prior was the recipient of the inaugural David Vines Scholarship for Clinical Excellence. Congratulations Ladies!

-Senior Carisia Garcia has been quite busy, as the recipient of three Community Service Learning grants totaling \$4000.00, all tailored to help the chronically underserved, including Seniors at the Bob Ross Senior Center and patients of the Family Focused Aids Clinical Treatment program. Carisia's leadership in these grant-funded activities allowed her and several of her classmates the opportunity to get involved in the community and establish the foundation for future partnerships and collaborations.

Presidents Corner

Greetings to all! It is a busy and exciting time for the RCAA as we just celebrated our 2nd Annual Alumni Banquet. It was a night filled with laughter and great fun, in the presence of good company.

I would like to extend a special thanks to every person who graciously donated to the RCAA fundraiser held at this year's Department of RC symposium. Their willingness to support the RCAA has afforded us the ability to be that much closer to our ultimate goal of establishing a permanent source of scholarship for deserving students.

In addition, I'd like to wish the Respiratory Care Class of 2011 warm wishes as they embark on their final clinical internships this semester and take on the challenge of becoming Registered Respiratory Therapists. It continues to be a privilege to serve as President of the RCAA and I am appreciative of the many individual efforts that have made this a successful two years. There is no doubt our field is growing and moving forward dramatically. According to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than average over the next decade, primarily because the aging baby boom generation will increase the number of older people, who tend to suffer the most from respiratory conditions like pneumonia and COPD and who often have respiratory complications due to heart disease and other common diseases of aging.

The RCAA has continued to grow stronger and build momentum. We must be proactive as a profession and as an organization which is where every member in the RCAA can help. We need to grow our membership in number as well as involvement to reach the level which we all hope to achieve. If you are not already a member, I invite you to join the RCAA and be proactive. If you have any questions about how you can get involved in the RCAA, contact any board member via email, RCAA@uthscsa.edu.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the RCAA and I encourage each of you to challenge yourself daily to master the values of Respiratory Care and your rewards are bound to be great.

-Heather DiGiovanni, BSRC, RRT
RCAA President

