

Interviewee: Tom Malone

Job title: Chief of Nutrition and Food Service at South Texas Veterans Health Care System

Date: April 14, 2009

1. What is your educational background?

B.B.A. Finance from Texas Tech University

M.S. Food Systems Administration from the University of Tennessee

2. What made you become interested in Nutrition?

I started working in the food service department of a hospital as a senior in high school and worked part-time through college. I received a lot of experience and really liked the work. I knew that if I wanted to make this my career, I wanted to have the best qualifications for the job. That desire led me to seek a Master's Degree in Food Systems Administration and to become a Registered Dietitian.

3. What was your first Nutrition-related job experience like?

Working in the Food Service Department (see above)

4. What is your favorite aspect of Nutrition?

The satisfaction of positively benefiting patients with a good meal and good service

5. Why do you feel that more people need to be educated about Nutrition?

Nutrition is an essential element of a healthy life. The knowledge base of nutrition is growing, and it is largely new information and new science. It is important for properly trained nutrition professionals to be the ones to present nutrition information because of all the incorrect, misleading information that is available on the internet, in popular magazines, books and other publications.

6. I understand you were the Texas Dietetic Association President last year; what were some of your responsibilities?

The Texas Dietetic Association is an affiliate of the American Dietetic Association. TDA represents Texas dietitians and dietetic technicians by advocating for the profession and its members. As President, I was responsible for all operations of the association including planning the annual meeting, maintaining fiscal controls, planning the legislative agenda and attempting to pass a licensure bill in the Texas legislature.