

HINFormation

A Newsletter of the School of Health Information Science
University of Victoria

May 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

This is my farewell message to you as Acting Director of the School. Dr *Francis Lau* will be returning to the position on July 1st. It has been a wonderful year. I have had the opportunity to be part of the 20th Anniversary celebration, to attend three convocation ceremonies which launched the careers of more than 30 HINF grads, to participate in the candidacy exams of three of our PhD students, and to see the approval of both the MSc in Health Informatics and the combined undergrad degree with Computer Science.

Admission into the Master's program will begin in September 2003. As we currently have seven students who have been studying for the MSc by special arrangement, we will be able to take an additional three students for a total of ten. Dr Lau and a team of researchers are also working on the adaptation of graduate courses to distance format.

In this issue.....

ALUMNI.....	1
COURSE UNION.....	3
GRADUATE STUDENTS	3
FACULTY AND STAFF	3
MISCELLANEOUS	4
STUDENTS	6

In the near future our students will be able to take health informatics courses from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia as part of their MSc from UVic. Similarly, students from those three universities will be able to take our graduate courses.

The combined undergraduate program with Computer Science is also beginning this fall. It will enable students who are particularly interested in technology to take more courses from computer science as part of their program. Additional funding will enable us to recruit a new professor for the School (a 25% increase in faculty!). We will also be hiring a senior instructor who will be responsible for the computer laboratory courses.

My sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this year such a pleasant one for me. I hope to maintain a strong connection with the School and may be sighted at the Friday Research Seminars from time to time. My very best wishes for the future.

Pat Coward

ALUMNI

New Vice President at CIHI



Jennifer Zelmer

Following a national job search the selection board consisting of three CIHI Board members *Dr. Ivan Fellegi*, Chief Statistician of Canada; *Dr. Cam Mustard*, Chair CPHI; and *Mr. Steven Lewis*, Chair, Health Reports and Analysis, interviewed a short list of candidates and unanimously recommended the appointment of *Ms. Jennifer Zelmer* ('93) to the position of Vice-President, Research and Analysis.

Jennifer joined CIHI in 1996. Since then she has held a number of senior management and professional positions in the organization, including most recently Director of Health Reports and Analysis. Jennifer is an M.A. Economics and is in the final throes of obtaining her Ph.D. with her thesis on "Economic Burden of End-Stage Renal Disease in Canada".

HINF alumna, *Kim Arscott* ('00) married *Sean Spryszak* in a private ceremony in Santorini, Greece on April 1st, 2003. For their honeymoon, the couple toured Greece for three weeks before returning home to Ottawa, where Kim works for the Canadian Institute for Health Information as a Senior Analyst.

The couple is planning to celebrate their wedding with family and friends on July 12th in Ottawa.



Kim and Sean

For over a year now I have been working with the Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC as a Systems Analyst within the IS Department. My main responsibilities are coordination of various IT development projects and high-level support of applications such as the Lab Information System, Transfusion Medicine System, Health Records and Abstracting System and a few others. As some of you may be aware of the exciting changes coming up with the formation of a new organization called the **Provincial Health Services Authority**. "PHSA's primary role is to ensure that BC residents have access to a coordinated network of high-quality specialized health care services. PHSA operates provincial agencies that include Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC and the BC Transplant Society, but PHSA is also responsible for specialized provincial health services like trauma and chest surgery, which are delivered in a number of locations across the province." (<http://www.phsa.ca>). All the alumni here at C&W, I am sure, are looking forward to these exciting changes and anticipate working with

various one-of-a-kind IT initiatives in the near future. We can say one thing for sure....its going to be a "busier than ever" life after the formalization of the IM/IT department as 'consolidating corporate services like finance, human resources, communications and information services, for the seven agencies it manages and governs' is a top priority for PHSA. If you would like more information please visit their website at <http://www.phsa.ca>.

On the side, I am heavily involved with various volunteer organizations that take up most of my time during the evenings. You may have seen a bit of information on the listserv regarding the World Partnership Walk held across Canada in 10 cities on the 25th of May, 2003. I was fortunate enough to be involved in the organizing of this event in Vancouver and since September of last year it has been a great learning experience for me and all who were involved. If you attended the event at any of the 10 locations this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of all the organizers and thousands of people across the world who benefit from this initiative. And if you weren't able to attend the event this year, I hope we will see you supporting this event next year.

Seems like time goes by very quickly....I never did believe people when they said that "You will miss your university years." But now I know that being at UVic was a great experience and we all have made some great friends. I hope that everyone is doing well and that they are enjoying life to the fullest. Good luck to everyone.

Zen Tharani ('02)



Pauline and Sam

On Feb. 28, 2002, my husband & I had a boy -- *Samuel James Robertson Cruickshank*. He is now a busy 13-month old, toddling & smiling all over the place. I returned to work in Decision Support Services (which has an ever-increasing number of HINF alumni) at Children's & Women's Health Centre of B.C. in early March 2003.

Pauline Robertson ('95)



The Brisson clan

Marc James Brisson was born May 14, 2003 at 4:28 PM at the St. Albert Sturgeon Community Hospital, weighing in at 7 Pounds 8 Ounces, 20 Inches, bald, loud, and beautiful. Mom and babe are doing well. *Mathieu, Nathaniel, and Michael* are excited to have another little buddy in the household.

COURSE UNION

On Thursday, May 15th the HSD third floor lounge hosted yet another HINF pizza and pop gathering. This time it was a *Welcome Back* get together, organized by the HINF Course Union, to give all students returning from work terms an opportunity to share their experiences with staff, faculty, and fellow students.

It was a well-attended event with numerous memorable stories told by students with placement positions throughout BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and across the Atlantic in Germany and Austria. A few lucky students had an opportunity to travel after their work terms to Britain, France, Spain and Portugal, and shared many (but undoubtedly not all) their adventurous stories. As studies commence for the summer semester, students will be back in classes ready to contribute with the new knowledge gained in their exciting job experiences from the first part of the year.

Now on to 4 months of hard work before getting ready for another wonderful co-op work term this fall, where ever it may be. Happy job hunting!

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Craig Kuziemsky won another ASI communications award – the 2nd year in a row he has been honoured for his ontology work in palliative care.

ASI is the Advanced Systems Institute in BC where they sponsor an annual conference in Vancouver to showcase hi-tech from industry and research from BC universities. The ASI award is a competition for all graduate students.

Craig is also the recipient of the 2003 Steven Huesing Award. Looks like hard work has paid off for Craig.



Stefan Pantazi

In the last month *Yuri Kagolovsky*, *Craig Kuziemsky* and *Stefan Pantazi* have all successfully completed their candidacy exams. Two days after his exam, Stefan celebrated his birthday – how many candles are on that cake?

Traveling to Romania

Stefan Pantazi and his wife, *Felicia*, are from Romania. Felicia has just returned from a month-long visit home. Her description of Romania follows:

Romania is a country in the Eastern part of Europe. To the East, it is bordered by the Black Sea. Its neighbors are: Bulgaria (South), Serbia and Hungary (West), Ukraine (North), Moldova (East).

Romania spans a total surface of 237,500 square km (roughly 91,800 sq. miles). Picture it to be about 3 times smaller than Alberta's land surface.

The official language is Romanian, a language of Latin origin that uses the Latin alphabet. The others Latin languages are: Catalan, French, Italian, Occitan, Portuguese, Rhaeto-Romance, Sardinian and Spanish.

One fact worth mentioning is that Romanian is the only Latin language in Eastern Europe, as the others generally have a Slavonic origin. This

is due to the fact that once this territory was part of the Roman Empire.

At the beginning of the 20th century Bucharest was named "The Little Paris" because of its rich cultural life. Romania gave to the world numerous famous people in many fields: Mircea Eliade (philosophy), Papanicolau (the initiator of Pap test), George Enescu (composer), Nadia Comaneci (gymnastics), George E. Palade (Nobel Laureate for Medicine in 1974 for his discoveries concerning the structural and functional organization of the cell).

Geographically, you can find mountains (The Carpathians), hills and plains in Romania. At the South border Romania has the Danube that ends up through a Delta into the Black Sea.

If you're going to travel in Europe it's worth to spend few days there and you'll be impressed by the beauty of this country.

Felicia Pantazi

FACULTY AND STAFF

It is with regret we say goodbye temporarily to *Alma Osorio*. Alma has left her part-time receptionist position here for a one-year full-time position in Mechanical Engineering. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the luck in her new position. *Shaina Hood* is helping to fill the void by working part-time in the office while she takes her summer HINF courses.

Jochen Moehr has ended his sabbatical and is teaching HINF 415 this summer. He and his wife, *Chris*, are off to Europe for ten days to visit their new grandson.

SNIFTY SNAKES



Snifty Snakes reign supreme to mark *Leslie Wood's* 10 years of dedicated service in the HINF office! Please join us with congratulations for 10 excellent years. Leslie's hard work (and sense of humour!) is exceptional. And happy belated birthday too :)

- Friends of the Katynet

[For the uninitiated, Snifty Snakes is a board game from ? years ago]

New to the School this term is *Jeff Barnett*, Pharmacy Information Analyst at the BC Cancer Agency. Jeff is teaching HINF 450, ably assisted by lab instructor *Ken Chung*.

MISCELLANEOUS

The School's web site has been moved off our own server and onto the UVic machines. Each course now has its own web site. To access the site, students must be registered in the course. Rather than remembering passwords for each course, students logon using their own UVic netlink ID and password.

Much Ado about HI Education.

April was an auspicious month for health informatics education at UVic. It was the first anniversary of the official opening of UMIT, saw a meeting of IMIA WG Education, the signing of collaboration agreements of UVic with UMIT and NYMU. in Taipei. Confused by the acronyms? Read on!

UMIT is a unique, new construction: the University for Medical Informatics and Technology in Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria. Its founding rector is Prof. *Reinhold Haux*, formerly from the University of Heidelberg, and actually a graduate of the medical informatics program at this university. One of the first graduates, actually. Subsequent to obtaining a doctoral degree at the University of Heidelberg, he spent time at the University of Aachen, working on expert systems, and at the University of Tuebingen, working on biometrics and quality improvement approaches, before taking up the post of Director of the Division for Medical Informatics of the Institute for Medical Biometrics and Informatics of the University of Heidelberg, a post vacated by *Jochen Moehr* when he joined the team in Victoria. His responsibilities in Heidelberg included, among other, leadership for the education Program in Medical Informatics.

Dr. Haux succeeded *Denis Protti* as Chair of Working Group Education of the International Medical Informatics Association, IMIA. This group had a meeting in Portland, Oregon, organized by colleagues at the Oregon Health Sciences University: Dr. *William Hersh* as Organizing Chair, and Dr. *Paul Gorman* as Program chair. This meeting featured four submissions by the School with Dr. *Francis Lau*, Ph.D. candidate *Carolyn Green* and Dr. *Jochen Moehr* as principal authors and presenters.



Carolyn Green

Carolyn Green also was one of three student representatives at a student panel, where she presented an original assessment of life as a graduate student at UVic. Other than that the meeting was a stimulating mixture of new approaches and old questions. High among the former ranks a master class arranged by members of IΦE (International Program for Health Informatics Education), a collaboration of the Universities of Amsterdam, Heidelberg, UMIT, Minnesota and Utah: 2-4 students and at least one faculty member are selected competitively from each program to attend a masters class, which is conducted at a different location each year. The group has been able to accomplish this three times so far. Meeting places were in the Netherlands, Germany and USA. Dr. Lau is conducting a similar meeting for Canadian Ph.D. students in the context of his CIHR-funded education project in June at UVic, and the meeting may actually provide an opportunity for an initial concrete step of collaboration between UVic and UMIT.

After the meeting in Portland, Dr. Haux, together with his Vice-Rector, Dr. *Hans-Joerg Schek*, took the opportunity of being in the area to briefly visit UVic for the signing of a collaboration agreement with UVic. This agreement supports the exchange of faculty, students and course material.



Reinhold Haux, Anita Molzahn

This is a good place to congratulate *Frieda Kaiser*. Frieda is a HINFer who graduated at UVic in Nov 2001, applied for a position at UMIT, was accepted starting in January 2002. She immediately enrolled in a masters

program and ended up the second student with a masters degree from UMIT – graduating about 1 ½ hrs after a colleague. She also won a substantial Scholarship which allows her to continue towards her PhD degree at UMIT.

Finally, the renewal of a collaboration with National Yang Ming University of Taiwan is in the final stages of formation. This collaboration was initially advanced with – among other – the support of *Michael Hsieh* ('88). Dr. *Der Ming Liou*, Director of the Medical Informatics Department and Program at Natl. Yang Ming, visited the School again in October last year and the agreement is in the final stages of completion.

Jochen Moehr

RESEARCH SEMINARS

The final research seminar for this session will be Adjunct Associate Professor *Don Juzwishin*'s presentation on May 30. The regular Friday seminars will start again in September. We would like to give a special thank you to *Felicia Pantazi* for her hard work in the taping and editing of CDs of the presentations.

THANK YOU



Steve Huesing and Denis Protti

On March 14th, the School paid tribute to *Steven Huesing*, Executive Director, International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) in thanks for his 20 years of support to the School. Following his research seminar reflecting on 30 years of innovation in healthcare informatics he was presented with a plaque and assorted HINF memorabilia and then feted at a dinner at the University Club.

In addition to his duties at IMIA, Steve is the Editor/Publisher of Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada, the official COACH magazine. He provides free copies of the magazine to our students, and through the magazine has publicized and promoted the School and its activities throughout the years. He also established the COACH Founding President's Award that is given annually to a HINF student. Steve was the President of COACH's charter Executive Board (*Denis Protti* was Secretary).

BC TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

The Final Evaluation Report for the BC Telehealth Program has now been printed. A limited number are available from Dr. *Jochen Moehr* (jmoehr@uvic.ca). A PDF version will soon be on our web site at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/events/index.htm>.

E-HEALTH 2003

e-Health2003 was quite a memorable event in many respects this year. Against the backdrop of SARS in the heart of downtown Toronto, and the distant threats of mad cow disease and Norwalk virus spanning the continent, the e-Health2003 conference turned out to be a more upbeat reminder of our great fortunes and accomplishments as a nation. For the School, it was a particularly joyous occasion in different ways. First, I had the distinct pleasure of accepting not one or two but three awards at the COACH annual meeting on behalf of the School - Professor *Denis Protti* was awarded the 2003 President's Award for his long-standing contribution to almost 30 years of COACH and more broadly to the field of health informatics in Canada. Also, our 3rd year HINF'er *Adam Beaton* won the COACH Founding President's Award for having achieved the highest academic standing in 2002/03, while our PhD candidate *Craig Kuziemsky* easily snatched the Steven Huesing Scholarship from six other applicants with his research on ontology in

palliative care. As well, we held the inaugural meeting of the CIHR-MSFHR PhD/Postdoc training program on Saturday before the opening of the conference. This is another milestone for the School, as we have recently been awarded a 6-year strategic training award from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research as the project lead with seven other universities across Canada. The objective of this program is to provide PhD and postdoctoral level training to foster a new generation of Canadian health informatics researchers, educators and practitioners. Currently there are 15+ trainees registered with the program from eight universities across the country, and the first research workshop will be held in June this year at Victoria. Also with pride and delight is the announcement that Dr. *Patricia Coward*, Acting Director of the School, will assume the program chair role for the next e-Health conference, to be held in Victoria in 2004. Last but not least, is the noteworthy observation that our HINF graduates and students continue to hold a strong presence at the conference – they were literally everywhere – Denis you should be proud!

As a footnote, I will be returning as the Director of the School commencing July 1, 2003. I am still actively involved as the Chair of the E-learning and Telecommunications Subcommittee for the UBC medical expansion initiative, but my secondment will be curtailed in order for me to resume my attention to the School's many upcoming initiatives and activities.

Francis Lau

STUDENTS

On June 6 another 22 HINF students will receive their diplomas and leave us for a variety of interesting careers. In addition to marking the end of four years of hard work, *Neelam Sandhu* has another special reason to celebrate – it is her 23rd birthday.

June 2003 Grads.....

Christine Baynton, Emily Boulton, Peter Chan, Carole Chow, Kim deMacedo, Andrew Fodor, Azmina Ismail, Marleen Krueger, Ryan Leib, Michael Li, Kevin Lonergan, Beajay Louie, Goldie Luong, Don MacPherson, Alec Matthews, Simon Ng, Anushka Premji, Fazilah Remu, Neelam Sandhu, Aleem Teja, Colette Wells and Justin White. Good luck to you all.



THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?!

Indeed, for seven of us HINFers who were in Toronto for our spring work term, it was definitely an unforgettable stay. Not only did we have the opportunity to gain new work experience at various health care organizations in Toronto, we also got a chance to explore the city with plenty of events to entertain us.

While the flower count was over a few million or so in Victoria, we survived the coldest winter on the East Coast. There were times when we huddled in the cold crowd as we were watching live Canadian performers such as Crush, 54-40, and the hundreds of other performances at the outdoor Toronto WinterFest. Visiting our capital city Ottawa to see the ice sculptures at the Ottawa WinterLude, and touring the Parliament buildings did not make us want to change our majors and become Government officials. We also met up with two other HINFers while in Ottawa. *Kathy Taylor* joined us from Montréal

(Health InfoWay), and *Tanu Gidda* from Ottawa (Health Canada).

Ottawa's winter was not exactly any warmer than Toronto's winter. Fortunately, when we went to see the amazing frozen falls at Niagara Falls, the weather was supremely warm and mild. It was a trip we took by riding the Casino bus. Ironically, we didn't have enough time to spend in the Casino. Maybe next time! We celebrated this fabulous work term by spending our last gathering 1,815 ft above the ground—dinner at the 360 degree restaurant at the top of Toronto's landmark, CN tower. I would highly recommend students who are going to work at Toronto to do as much exploring as they possibly can. There are so many funky and cool shops in the city and the atmosphere is fresh and new. Needless to say, we had a fantastic time despite the SARS situation when it hit Toronto near the end of our work term.

The HINFers at Toronto were: *Gloria Chao* (CIHI), *Allison Dare* (Courtyard Group), *Shaina Hood* (Cancer Care Ontario), *Silvia Fazekas* (Mount Sinai Hospital), *Jane Kong* (Mount Sinai Hospital), *Robyn Hope* (The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health), and *Teresa Rafter* (Toronto East General Hospital).



At the top of the Parliament Tower.

Back row: *Silvia Fazekas, Jane Kong, and Tanu Gidda*

Front row: *Kathy Taylor, Jack Shaw, Gloria Chao, and Robyn Hope*



At the Niagara Falls

From left: *Jack Shaw, Teresa Rafter, Silvia Fazekas, Allison Dare, Robyn Hope, Shaina Hood, Gloria Chao, Jane Kong, Lutz Lowis* (friend) and *Kirk* (friend).

Congratulations to *Adam Beaton*, this year's recipient of the Coach Founding President's Award.

SUMMER 2003 HINF ULTIMATE TEAM,

This year some of us are taking our HINF pride and showcasing it out on the field. I have put together a small contingency of HINFers and created an 'Ultimate' team for this summer's intramural league. The team consists of a stellar display of our finest HINF athletes. I'm telling you, we have the cream of the crop for this team. For our team name I have decided to stick with the label that our cohort has adopted over the last year or two and therefore we are called the 'Raging HINFomaniacs'.



We have 11 raging members that make up our fast and furious team and they are as follows: *Rob Landry* (Team Captain), *Mike Cleghorn*, *Todd Kinnee*, *Shaina Hood*, *Elisa McIntosh*, *Adam Beaton*, *Erin Reardon*, *Kris Pallan*, *Manu Bhalla*, *Lisa McKay* and *Alicia Brazier* shown in the picture above.

Denis Protti has kindly donated 11 t-shirts to our team and we will be using them as uniforms for game days.

Our games are held on Tuesday nights at UVic on the fields beside the stadium parking lot. We would like to welcome everyone out to come and watch our games. I will be sending the game times out on the Hinfcu listserv every week. It would be nice to see people come out and cheer us on.

Rob Landry

HINFERS SEEK SUN IN THE CASA DEL SOL!

Mike Cleghorn and *Todd Kinnee* finished their work terms early this past semester to explore Spain and Portugal together before coming back for the summer semester. Mike was working in Germany at the Westfalian Wilheims University of Muenster. Todd was working at the Children's and Women's Health Centre of B.C. in Vancouver. The pair met in Barcelona and began their cross-country journey. They have provided a description of their travels for your enjoyment.

We arrived in Barcelona on a balmy Saturday afternoon. A short train ride and brisk walk into town led us to HINF'98 grad *Grainne Byrne's* apartment. After some brief introductions and city orientation, we were whisked off to dinner where another HINF'98 grad *Angela Dunbar* was awaiting. During the next two hours we shared stories, great food, and a few bottles of wine (bring on the cultural experience). They were very hospitable and made our first weekend a memorable one... thanks ladies.

A weekend of exploring Barcelona on foot was followed by the rental of our European wheels for the next sixteen days. We picked up the car on Tuesday morning and headed Northwest to Pamplona. On our way we stopped at Montserrat, Lleida, and Zaragosa. Montserrat was breathtaking and the landscape quickly changed from beaches to mountains to rolling hills. When we finally reached our destination for the day we were met by the battle of finding a place to stay. We lost that one and slept in the car! Pamplona was very quiet in comparison to what we had expected from hearing stories of the madness at *Los San Fermes* festival (Running of the Bulls) in early July.



Day 2 of the road trip took us to San Sebastian where we savoured the elegance of the turquoise water playing off of the golden sandy beach. We didn't want to leave, but the show must go on! After exploring the North coast of Spain (Santander, Laredo, Bilbao) we migrated south through the *Picos de Europa* to Salamanca. On this leg of the journey we met a cool dentist from Santander, some international students in Salamanca and we became local celebrities appearing on Salamanca Television. We're not entirely sure what the interviewer in the bar asked us, but with a crooked smile we looked into the camera with crossed-eyes and replied "We're from Canada!". It was a proud day for all Canadians.

Driving west the next day we were barely aware of our entry into Portugal with the uncontrolled borders of the European Union. A totally different experience than visiting our 'neighbors to the south'. Situated along the Rio Douro at the mouth of the Atlantic, Porto (Europe's cultural capital 2001) offered us a guided boat tour and a host of wineries.

We couldn't possibly leave the city without partaking in a winery tour so we decided on the Sandeman winery where we learned all about the history of the company, the process of making Port wine, and of course got to sample the goods.



Passing through Lisbon brought us to the Algarve. We arrived in Lagos, a small fishing village known by many travellers for its gorgeous coastline, relaxed atmosphere, and exciting social life. We stayed in a cozy hostel minutes from the beach that boasted a large central courtyard which promoted story sharing and other fun conversation among its residents. After the fast paced driving of the previous days, we easily warmed up to the idea of relaxing on the beach. We stayed there for the next five days. We could fill volumes with our great experiences in Lagos, it was the highlight of our trip.



At the bullfight

Our departure from Lagos delivered us back to Spain where we spent two days in Seville to experience the traditional Spanish culture of Flamenco dancing and bullfights. We were lucky enough to be in Seville during one of the country's biggest festivals: The Feria d'Abril. Spaniards celebrate how good they were at Lent during this weeklong festival that includes copious amounts of music, food and drink throughout hundreds of tents set up for the event.

The 36-degree temperatures only added to the cultural experience before heading east to Marbella. It was here on the *Costa del Sol* that we soaked up the last of the Spanish sunshine between quick visits to Gibraltar, Algeciras, Granada, and Alicante before finishing our trip with a marathon 900 km drive back to Barcelona.



The Rock of Gibraltar

We highly recommend taking advantage of the HINF co-op experience to travel and take it all in as part of the experience. Wherever your co-op placement takes you, we urge you to get out there, see the sights and do a little 'outside the box learning'. Enjoy!

Mike and Todd